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THE IRISH TIMES

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No 63,975

TUESDAY MARCH 26 1991

35p

Brooke breakthrough: talks imminent

Unionists agree to negotiate with Dublin

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ULSTER Unionist leaders yesterday agreed to join in talks with nationalists and the Dublin government, setting the scene for the first formal initiative on Northern Ireland for a decade.

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary who in 14 months of negotiation has always said that formal talks were a possibility rather than a probability, will outline his proposals for the discussions to the Commons today or tomorrow. The talks may begin next month.

Mr Brooke had set out his proposals in a document circulated to the four main political parties in the province, ending Sinn Féin, and the British and Irish governments. The Unionists were the last to respond, with a one-line statement issued by James Moynihan and Ian Paisley yesterday, saying: "With the process of clarification complete, we have now conveyed a positive response to the secretary of state."

This means that Unionists and the Dublin administration may meet formally for the first time since the Sunning-



said: "The fact that people are prepared to sit down to consider an agenda is a considerable step forward."

The Brooke initiative is the latest in a series of attempts to tackle the Northern Ireland question since the dissolution of Stormont 19 years ago. These included the power-sharing executive of 1973-4, the constitutional convention of 1975-6, the round-table conference of 1980 and the "rolling devolution" after 1982. Mr Brooke's approach differs from those of William Whitelaw in 1972 and James Prior ten years later in that his initiative offers no precise prescription of how its objectives might be met, but rather sets the scene for each party to submit proposals in the hope of finding some agreement.

Mr Brooke's painstaking diplomacy has painstakingly drawn out the process this far even though some of those directly participating in his series of consultations privately predicted certain failure.

His switch from the Conservative party chairmanship to the Northern Ireland Office in 1989 was regarded by some as a punishment for the Tories' disastrous showing in the European elections. But he quickly demonstrated a better understanding than many of his predecessors of the intricacies of Ulster politics, winning praise from both Sinn Féin and Mr Paisley's Democratic Unionists.

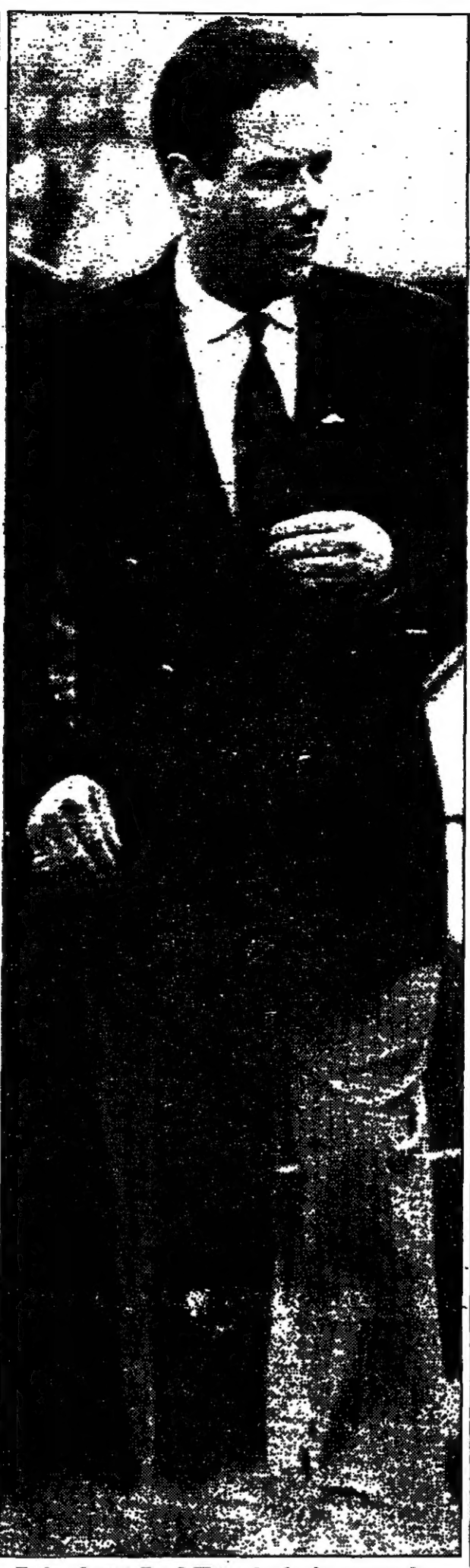
After several months of preparatory meetings with party leaders - and a controversial remark about a future government's readiness to talk to Sinn Féin - Mr Brooke was prepared by January last year to launch his initiative. Since then, he has overseen the testing of structures and ideas drawn up by civil servants, arguing points with all parties in a complex and, at times, tedious process requiring scores of meetings.

dale conference of 1973. Mr Brooke envisages three sets of simultaneous talks in London, Dublin and Belfast, during which he will attempt to reach a consensus that would lead to a drawing down of direct rule. The secretary of state hopes to establish some form of devolved administration in Northern Ireland, involving power sharing and a recognition of the Irish government's "legitimate interest" in the province's affairs.

Simply by persuading all the parties to agree to the talks, Mr Brooke has exceeded many people's expectations. Seamus Mallon, the Social Democratic and Labour Party deputy leader, said the people of Northern Ireland were now seeing the beginning of the end of the trouble. He hoped that the initiative could herald an end to political instability and violence. The Alliance party's John Alderdice, said: "It has been extraordinarily difficult to get this far, but this is only the first hurdle. There will be major difficulties and we have a mountain to climb to get into negotiations."

Kevin McNamara, Labour's Northern Ireland spokesman, congratulated Mr Brooke on a substantial breakthrough and on his tenacious handling of the negotiations.

Leading article, page 13



Facing charges: Derek Hatton leaving home yesterday

Saddam's planes 'bombing rebels in Kirkuk'

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN MOSCOW

IRAQI forces loyal to President Saddam Hussein made a desperate attempt to win back the northern rebel-held city of Kirkuk yesterday by bombing it from aircraft and helicopters, according to an Iraqi Kurdish group which called for allied military support.

If true, Saddam risked involving the Americans, who have warned him against flying fixed-wing aircraft and last week shot down two Iraqi warplanes which they say flew in violation of the provisional Gulf ceasefire. But Saddam needs to win back Kirkuk, a key city in an area that produces more than a quarter of the country's oil.

In Damascus, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said many people were killed in an early morning air raid on Kirkuk when two jet fighters and five helicopters bombed and strafed the city. The group said Kurdish fighters shot down one of the helicopters.

Kurdish rebels said Saddam's forces have launched several unsuccessful land and air strikes against the city in recent days and last week claimed children were being thrown from helicopters as part of the campaign of terror. Many opposition groups yesterday accused Saddam of using brutal methods to crush the rebellion and highlighted the suffering of civilians in an apparent attempt to win international sympathy and support for their cause.

They claim government forces used helicopters to spray demonstrators with phosphoric acid in the northern city of Mosul and in the southern town of Amarah.

The United States, whose A-6 surveillance planes fly over Iraq 24 hours a day, has said it has no evidence that Saddam's forces have used chemical weapons. But Turkish reporters across the border in northern Iraq on Sunday said that they saw Kurds with burns caused by napalm.

The Iranian news agency, IRNA, spoke of a "barbarous massacre" in Basra where it claims women and children were being used as human shields and men, aged between 15 and 40, were being summarily executed.

Despite this, the agency denied Saddam's claim that the rebellion in the mainly Shia south had been crushed and insisted that four southern cities, including the centre of Basra, were in rebel hands. The other towns were named as Nasiriyah, Amarah and Tarmah.

To boost their ranks, Kurdish groups have reportedly asked the Saudi military to hand over an estimated 63,000 Iraqi Gulf prisoners of war to them rather than to the Baghdad government.

Iran's parliament announced its support for the insurgency, but implied it will remain strictly moral and humanitarian in nature.

But in a byzantine twist, an Iraqi-based Iranian opposition group accused Tehran of sending members of the Revolutionary Guard into Iraq to attack its bases under cover of the uprising against Saddam. The People's Mujahideen said they had also launched a counter-offensive early yesterday morning along 100-mile front on the Iraqi border north of the Iraqi town of Khanaqin and Jalula. The mujahideen, an underground movement, said its forces repelled an attack on their position north of Jalula on Sunday.

Dictator's billions, page 10
Troops re-equipped, page 10

Besieged on all sides in a Kuwait ghetto

The Gulf war has given Kuwaitis an excuse to cleanse their country of foreign workers who were becoming a little too powerful. Kate Mair reports

What better way to begin the obliteration of a people than by blacking out the road signs which lead to its home district? Hawalli, the Palestinian district of Kuwait City, becomes harder to find each day. As locating Hawalli is not the same as entering it, because its access roads are blocked with concrete slabs and wrecked cars.

There seems to be only one entrance, through barriers into the guns of teenage Kuwaitis, who may or may not be soldiers, but certainly want to check credentials. Few Palestinians leave Hawalli now. Few outsiders enter. Once a suburb, it is now a ghetto.

The Palestinians' own diaspora has left about 400,000 living in Kuwait. Like the Jews in Europe, they provided the Kuwaitis with a thinking class - doctors, engineers, lawyers and businessmen. Now, because a few collaborated with the Iraqis, many are being punished.

About half the Palestinians left Kuwait during the war, and are finding it almost impossible to get back. Decades of residence are of little significance to border guards. Even Palestinian soldiers or prisoners of war who fought to free Kuwait find that does not guarantee them the right to return. The war has provided a convenient excuse for the Kuwaitis to cleanse their country of foreign workers who were becoming a little too permanent, a little too powerful.

Those who remained in Kuwait throughout the occupation are now under a cloud of suspicion. As one Kuwaiti general, who left the country for a safe haven on August 2, said: "We dare not trust any Palestinian."

That much is clear from the numbers being beaten up, tortured or detained in the same police cells used for similar purposes by the Iraqis. According to a report from the human rights organisation, Middle East Watch, over 2,000 Palestinians and other minorities have been detained, and records from mortuaries, graveyards and hospitals show around 40 deaths.

There is no need to rely on human rights reports for information, which can be gained simply by walking into Hawalli at night, and waiting for a crowd to form. Because the city has almost no electricity, the men are identifiable only by their cigarettes glowing in the dark, and emerge out of doorways to talk, many in fluent English. One has a brother taken away by two soldiers at a roadblock, and returned two days later with fractures and bruises. Another can show electric burn marks on his ears.

With lanterns, they lead the way into a flat, scene of the latest disappearance. Hayam Mahmood's husband went to fill cans at the water point at noon. It is now 10 pm and he has not returned. The family are too scared to go to a police station to inquire, in case they, too, are interrogated.

Ironically, Mrs Mahmood, aged 35, was one of the first to suffer at the hands of the Iraqis. She had given birth to twins a few days before the invasion, and her first sight of the Iraqis was when they told her doctor to take her daughter, Ola, from the oxygen tent.

Ola survived with her twin, Abdurrahman, but Mrs Mahmood does not have enough breast milk for two, and a city with no water is unlikely to have formula milk.

The Palestinians feel besieged. Somehow there are fewer water tankers coming to Hawalli than the rest of the city. The queues are longer for staple food distributed by the Kuwaitis. "They distributed 1,000 loaves yesterday, and 45,000 people live in this area," said one older man. "Then they started giving some people three each."

Other minorities are having difficulties. A Filipino, driving tank transporters for the British army, had his hand ripped apart at the roadside by a grenade detonator. He begged people not to take him to a Kuwaiti hospital. "I will not be safe there. Take me to the British or American military hospital."

He did not get the choice. His hand was amputated immediately. He believes it could have been reconstructed. But he was the wrong race.

HOME OF GOOD WRITING

FASHION

Like Smith on Nicole Farhi, whose practical and stylish clothes have earned her a British Design Award Page 16

IMAGE

Joe Joseph looks at John Major and wonders if the image-makers are starting to get to him - and if not, why not? Page 2

HUMOUR

Alan Coren and a few like-minded polites people are planning to mount a mild attack against the poll tax - if that is all right with you Page 12

INSIDE

Arafat offer

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has made an apparent territorial concession to Israel which his office describes as substantial. Page 10

Trollope corner

Trollope is now "adds on" to John Chaucer, Shakespeare and Dickens in Poets Corner, according to Dr Richard Mortimer, Keeper of Manuscripts at Westminster Abbey. Page 22

Sharpe call-up

Lee Sharpe, the Manchester United winger voted Young Player of the Year by his fellow professionals on Sunday, was called up to the England squad for the European Championship qualifying game with Ireland at Wembley tomorrow. Page 38

Lawson accuses ministers of lacking will to govern

By ROBIN OAKLEY AND NICHOLAS WOOD

NIGEL Lawson, the former Chancellor, last night intensified the government's growing difficulties by accusing ministers of lacking the will to govern. The attack shocked Conservative MPs, and boosted the credibility of Labour's efforts to destroy John Major's popularity by branding him a dithering and indecisive prime minister.

Mr Major, who spent part of yesterday with senior ministers at Chequers seeking new policy options, is expected by his backbenchers to respond strongly to his critics in tomorrow's no-confidence motion, tabled by Labour, in the Commons. Conservative MPs are agitated by the effectiveness of Labour's recent attacks in undermining the prime minister, its resumed lead in the opinion polls, and the growing uncertainty about government's plans for the replacement of the poll tax.

Mr Lawson, a long-time opponent of the poll tax who now wants local taxation

scrapped altogether, went for the heart of the government's strategy in escaping from the poll-tax quagmire when he ridiculed the postponement of the decision on the balance between local taxation of residents and property in its new scheme. He said on the last day of the Budget debate: "To govern is to choose". He added: "To appear to be unable to choose is to appear to be unable to govern."

If he had consulted about the tax changes he made as Chancellor, then not one would have been possible to enact, Mr Lawson declared. "The government is in danger of giving consultation a bad name." His message was to stop consulting and start deciding. He said the consultation document to be issued after Easter will float virtually every option from a tax weighted heavily towards property values, with a tiny head tax bolted on, to the precise opposite of that.

Hatton is accused of fraud plot

By RONALD FAUX

DEREK Hatton, the former Militant deputy leader of Liverpool city council, was yesterday charged on three counts of conspiracy to defraud by officers of Merseyside police engaged in Operation Cheetah, an investigation into alleged municipal fraud that has led to the arrest of 23 people.

Mr Hatton, aged 43, who ran a public relations and property consultancy in Liverpool after his time on the council, was charged when he answered to police bail at the Liverpool fraud squad headquarters. Charged with him were John Monk, his tailor, Hannah Folan, a Liverpool councillor, and John Nelson, a former councillor. All were released on bail to appear at Liverpool city magistrates court on July 30.

Afterwards, Mr Hatton said: "I have never ever conspired to defraud ratepayers in this city and never would, and I will certainly prove my innocence."

Police said charges related to an enquiry about car parks.

Labrador bows to Terrier as Britain's top dog

By ALICE THOMSON

THE Yorkshire Terrier has just toppled the old favourite Labrador as Britain's most popular pedigree dog. Two million out of Britain's eight million dogs are registered as pedigree with the Kennel Club and some 280,000 puppies were signed on last year. Most breeds managed to hold their position in the 1990 elite dog table with the exception of the formidable Rottweiler and Doberman. The Rottweiler this year lost its status as the "macho male" accessory and has sunk from 9th to 16th place, the Doberman has dropped from 12th to 8th place.

The most popular name for registered dogs in the first three months of this year was Stormin' Norman. Ian Logan, registrar for the club, said: "Names always depend on what's topical. At the moment we've been inundated by Scud

Missiles, Patriot Warriors and we've even had Saddam Hussein. We've just registered an Apache Gunship and a Desert Rat. There are whole litters named after tanks."

Once a name has been used in a breed it cannot be chosen again. There are 160 registered breeds, so there can only be 160 registered Stormin' Normans. "Names exhaust themselves pretty quickly, so there's always a rush but it is strictly first come, first served," Mr Logan said.

"Last year it was Berlin Wall and when Lady Diana was married, we filled up our quota of Princess Dianias in a couple of days."

For the dog who has everything, a new scheme has been set up to ensure that even in sickness it will be well-catered for. The Kennel Club yesterday launched a health care plan exclusively for registered dogs, having found con-

cerned that only 6 per cent of these carefully nurtured pedigrees are insured.

The new "Bupa for dogs" will cover £1,500 in veterinary fees which in some cases now cost as much as fees for human operations. Lottie, a five-year-old pedigree Cocker Spaniel was recently given a life-saving two-hour operation when she was fitted with the first second-hand human pacemaker. The whole operation cost her owners more than £800.

Insured dogs will be able to take advantage of regular check-ups, vaccinations and wormings. Their owners will be able to seek advice on feeding and dietary supplementation, grooming and coat care, behaviour problems and dental care.


The premium is £49.95 and if a dog goes missing or is stolen, the owner can ask for £500 to help them search for their beloved dog or charge up to £500 for a replacement for their affections.

TOP 20 BREEDS

1 Yorkshire Terrier	25,665
2 Retriever (Labrador)	25,456
3 German Shepherd	18,908
4 W. Highland White	18,688
5 Cavalier K. Charles	16,323
6 Golden Retriever	15,983
7 Cocker Spaniel	12,866
8 English Springer	11,349
9 Staff Bull Terrier	7,609
10 Boxer	6,949
11 Shih Tzu	4,603
12 Collie (Rough)	4,570
13 Shetland Sheepdog	4,071
14 Cairn Terrier	3,980
15 Poodle (Toy)	3,976
16 Rottweiler	3,597
17 Lhasa Apso	3,141
18 Doberman	3,097
19 Bull Terrier	2,647
20 Old English Sheepdog	2,520

© Figures are the numbers registered last year in pedigree dogs by the Kennel Club.

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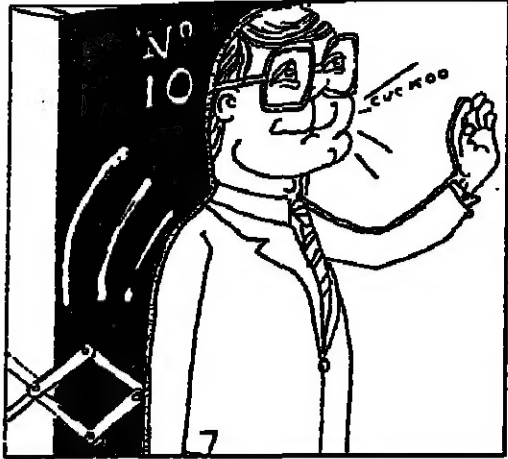
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nd's fold

Who would change the image of the 'plug-ugly' prime minister?

By JOE JOSEPH

ONCE it has become the talk of Westminster that you tuck your shirt into your underwear, you need either a thick skin, an image consultant, or the energy to shake off paparazzi sneaking snaps of your exposed Y-front waistband. John Major has chosen thick skin and a hunch that his Brixton boyhood and his "Cripe, look at me, mum!" manner will see him through the polls.

A slight change in delivery during a weekend speech at Southport sparked talk that the man who boasted that "I shall be the same plug-ugly that I always was", that "people will have to take me as I am", that "the image-makers will not find me under their tutelage" had been noddled by the media massagers. "It's news to me if he has," says Edward Pearce, author of a new biography, *The Quiet*



The cartoonists' views: from left, Michael Heath, *The Spectator*; Steve Bell, *The Guardian*; Peter Brookes, *The Times*; Nick Garland, *Daily Telegraph*; Trog, *The Observer*

Rise of John Major. "It's dead against the grain of the man." It seems that Mr Major just had throat problems. Mr Major has never been short of confidants and cab drivers eager to tell him that he looks more like the man who hands out the lapel badges to conference delegates

rather than the man who makes the speeches, that although he wears pricey Chester Barrie suits he looks like *Man at CDA*, that grey is not a designer colour when describing cheek flesh, and that while saying "wunt" instead of "want" might be diverting in a child, it is disconcerting in a

man who may want to do a lot of things as prime minister. Mr Major has been able to soften his image by being photographed in cricket whites, something even Mrs Thatcher never managed, but has the time come for some serious Thatcher-style image counselling? Bruce Anderson,

author of another forthcoming biography of the prime minister, says that Mr Major has not weakened in his resistance to style suits. "When he hears the word image, he reaches for the revolver. He wants to be himself. The problem is that he's not Margaret Thatcher. She

turned politics into a passion. She brought an operatic quality to politics. The public are getting used to him being prime minister. We in the media are obsessed with political image. But what it comes down to for voters is the money in people's pockets."

But Mary Spillane, managing director of Colour Me Beautiful, a firm of image consultants, is baffled that Mr Major refuses her offer to pep up his image. "We deserve more," says Ms Spillane, once a policy adviser to President Jimmy Carter. "He might have needed to look sober in the

dark days of the Gulf war. But the daffodils are out. We need something brighter. Research shows that 55 per cent of the impression a person makes comes from how he looks, and 38 per cent on the quality of his voice — both of which are pretty abysmal in Major's case. Only 7 per cent depends on what he is saying.

"Look, I don't want to transform the guy into a fashion plate. But he has to communicate that he has vision and personality."

"He needs some movement in his hair. His hair looks like a skullcap. He needs to have it layered. He has to ditch the tortoise-shell glasses and go for a blue-grey frame that would be more complimentary to his skin colour. Some pale pink and lilac shirts."

"In suits, he could go into a double-breasted. A pocket handkerchief would make them come alive. We want to be proud of him, that's all."

Curriculum restores teaching traditions in history and geography

Clarke demands fact over opinion

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

IN A further move towards more traditional teaching, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, yesterday published final details of national curriculum lessons in history and geography, underlining the emphasis on fact rather than opinion.

He also went some way to meeting critics who had complained about his original proposal for modern history teaching to cover only the period from the turn of the century to the 1960s, with everything after that treated as current affairs. He has decided that the period covered by modern history studied by pupils from 14 to 16 will run from the turn of the century to a time 20 years ago, with the cut-off point moving on in five-year intervals.

"My view remains that pupils should not be legally required to study contemporary events and people, many of whom are still living, because of the difficulty of treating such matters with historical perspective," Mr Clarke said.

His decision to allow 14-year-olds to drop history had

led to complaints that they would learn little about the twentieth century and he has introduced a compulsory study unit on the second world war for children aged 11 to 14.

In geography, many detailed changes have been made to clarify what pupils should know at the various key stages and to make the course easier for teachers to manage. "I was not persuaded by those who argued that greater emphasis should be placed on the study of people's views and attitudes on geo-

graphical topics."

Mr Clarke has reintroduced items concerning ecological issues related to the differing uses of land and how they affect scenic beauty. He has refused to allow a separate objective covering skills such as being able to use reference and recording systems. "Such skills are required by the programmes of study but I do not consider it essential for them to be assessed separately in geography," he said.

Details of shorter courses linking history or geography or combining them with other

subjects for pupils aged 14 to 16, either as GCSEs or equivalent examinations, will be published later this year. Mr Clarke said he believed that the new arrangements would place history and geography firmly in the syllabus for all pupils.

Answering critics who said that the new lessons diminished both subjects, Mr Clarke said that his proposals would "ensure that pupils follow sensible and comprehensive courses".

National curriculum lessons in history and geography

for children aged between five and 14 will start next September. Those for pupils aged between 14 and 16 start in 1994.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said he would press for a Commons debate on the proposals. "This is a partial climb-down. I think Kenneth Clarke now realises he has made a fool of himself, but the 20-year rule for history is still arbitrary. It means that children in state schools cannot learn the history of the Gulf war until 2011."

What children should know at each age

THE three history attainment targets are the knowledge and understanding of history, interpretations of history, and use of sources. Children, for example, should be able to:

At 14: identify how the Industrial Revolution affected regions and social groups; investigate how much film or drama give accurate or complete accounts of events in Germany; show how Second World War propaganda throws light on contemporary attitudes. At 16: explain attitudes of different countries towards the League of Nations; discuss le-

gends that account for the origins of the Korean war; explain how source limitations for the Cultural Revolution make it difficult to form a complete picture.

The five geography targets are geographical skills, knowledge and understanding of places, physical geography, human geography, and environmental geography.

At seven: draw a map of a farm; name England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; use words and pictures to describe experience of weather and seasons;

know types of goods supplied in local shops; describe how materials are obtained through quarrying, mining, fishing, lumbering.

At 11: record the co-ordinates of a wood, lake or motorway junction on a 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey map; describe how family life, housing, clothing and diet are affected by landscape, weather and wealth; compare characteristics of soil at a small number of selected sites; investigate urban and rural areas; describe the restoration of derelict land, new uses for gravel pits, landscaping of spoil tips.

At 14: draw an annotated sketch map to show a town in its physical setting; show how environmental, technological, economic, social or political changes have affected land-use and employment; consider conditions producing river and coastal flooding; review advantages and disadvantages of science parks, industrial estates, shopping centres, regional specialisation in farming or a particular industry; give evidence of the impact of tourism on an area.

At 16: bring together information from the Ordnance Survey, land-use, soil and conservation maps to highlight rural relationships; evaluate strategies to influence agriculture, population movement and tourism by assessing consequences; explain the relationship between unreliability of rainfall and distribution of climate and the pattern of atmospheric circulation; describe problems caused by water and atmospheric circulation; crossing political boundaries, deforestation, global warming, acid rain and the need for international co-operation.



Sailor's return: Gary Nicholson reunited with his wife Alison at Devonport, Plymouth, yesterday after the frigate HMS London returned from duties in the Gulf. The couple were photographed saying their goodbyes, right, when the London left for the Gulf in November last year. In Portsmouth yesterday, the destroyer HMS Gloucester returned from the Gulf to a rapturous welcome. Tom King, the defence secretary, joined a huge crowd at the quayside to give the Gloucester's 300 crew a rousing welcome as the ship arrived in a cacophony of sirens.

Court rules Blake case pair could lose homes

TWO men charged with helping the convicted spy George Blake to escape from jail 12 years ago could lose their homes under a High Court ruling made yesterday.

If convicted, Michael Randle and Patrick Pottle could be ordered to forfeit £30,000 they received from the publishers of a book they wrote about the affair. The High Court upheld a legal charge on their properties — a procedure that can be used to force people to sell their homes to meet financial obligations.

Whether the judgment is enforced depends on the outcome of a trial later this year when the two men will answer charges of aiding and abetting Blake's escape and conspiring to harbour him. Blake, sentenced to 40 years in 1961 for spying for the Russians, escaped from Wormwood Scrubs Prison in 1966.

Mr Justice Webster said that in 1968 Mr Randle, aged 34, a lecturer at Bradford, and Mr Pottle, aged 52, a retired antique dealer of Crouch End, London, signed an agreement with publishers for £30,000 to write a book, *The Blake Escape: How we freed George Blake and why*. They received the money and the book had been published last year.

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Increase for farm grants

Farmers will be eligible for bigger grants for diversification and conservation projects under government plans announced yesterday. John Gummer, the agriculture minister, also said that farmers who had lost their entitlement to grants by starting improvements to waste disposal facilities without official clearance could re-apply.

The farm diversification grant scheme and the farm and conservation grant scheme are to be amalgamated, raising the maximum investment on which a grant can be claimed for diversification from £35,000 to £40,000, and for conservation from £74,000 to £85,000.

Penallta closes

British Coal yesterday confirmed it plans to shut Penallta pit near Ystrad Mynach, Mid-Glamorgan, because of geological problems and a shortage of coal reserves. Six hundred jobs will be lost and miners at the Deep Navigation pit at Trebarnis near by had planned to seek transfers to Penallta when their own pit closes at the end of this week. Union officials are to meet on Saturday.

Rifkind refusal

Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, has refused to reopen an investigation into the disappearance in a typhoon of the supertanker Derbyshire with the loss of 44 lives in the northwest Pacific in September 1980. Marine accident investigators were instructed last July to examine claims of a possible design weakness in the hull of the Derbyshire, the largest British ship lost at sea.

Surgery queue

A woman who waited 14 years for plastic surgery on her ears has changed her mind because she says she has got used to them sticking out. She is one of hundreds of people written to by Wessex regional health authority in an effort to validate waiting lists. It was found that a third of the 4,500 people waiting for operations had died, no longer wanted the procedure or had had treatment elsewhere.

Lottery campaign defeated by secret offer to Lamont

By MICHAEL PRESCOTT

LOBBYISTS for the shipping and film industries are still smug over Norman Lamont's failure to bow to their blandishments in last week's budget. Despite a campaign which, in the case of the Royal Yacht Britannia for two promotional lunches, the Chancellor offered them little or nothing for their comfort.

Their fate is in sharp contrast to the success of the football pools companies. An extraordinary secret deal between Littlewoods and the Treasury headed off the threat of a national lottery which could have destroyed their business.

The Lottery Promotion Company wanted approval for a national game that advocates claim would raise many millions of pounds for sport, the arts, the environment and the Treasury. Tim Renton, the arts minister, was said to be in favour. But just one week before the Budget, Mr Lamont did a deal in which Littlewoods promised that its industry would set up a new arts and sports foundation if spared a national lottery.

The campaign for a lottery seemed to have a fair wind

behind it after four years of campaigning by Denis Vaughan, the conductor, who established the lottery company last year. Those he had recruited included Lord Harewood, chairman of English National Opera, Lord Gibson, a former chairman of the National Trust and of the Arts Council, and Sir Richard Luce, the former arts minister.

Two key arguments were put to ministers, officials and MPs. First, that the arrival of the EC single market would allow foreign lottery tickets into Britain, and that the nation should pre-empt that; second, a lottery would create its own market without hurting the pools or the £320 million a year the Treasury gets in duty from them. A new reservoir of money would be tapped for the government and good causes.

However, Littlewoods, the biggest pools company, then launched its sabotage plan, hatched with its lobbyist, Westminster Communications. Littlewoods presented the government with an alternative of letting the pools firms set up a new arts and sports foundation. For each £1 from the govern-

ment — in the form of reduced duty on pools companies — the industry would put up £2. It could raise £60 million a year.

The idea was put to Mr Lamont at a meeting on March 8. Those who gained access to him, just 11 days before the Budget, were Desmond Fitcher, chief executive of Littlewoods, Peter Moores, a leading family shareholder, and Malcolm Davidson, managing director.

Before the meeting, it seems, the government was committed to a lottery. However, the pools men questioned whether EC rules really would let foreign lottery tickets into Britain, and produced a battery of statistics to suggest that a British lottery would indeed eat into the pools business — and the Treasury's duty.

A source in the Littlewoods camp, proud of his side's coup, said: "It is unique to get to see the Chancellor that close to the Budget, and then agree a brand-new proposal which gets into the Budget. A Treasury minister said to me afterwards that we did not know how close we had come to a national lottery."

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Among its legion of

admirers are Lord Blake who called it "a splendid book — beautifully produced," *Le Monde*, which pronounced it "a tremendous conceptual breakthrough and an aesthetic success," *The*

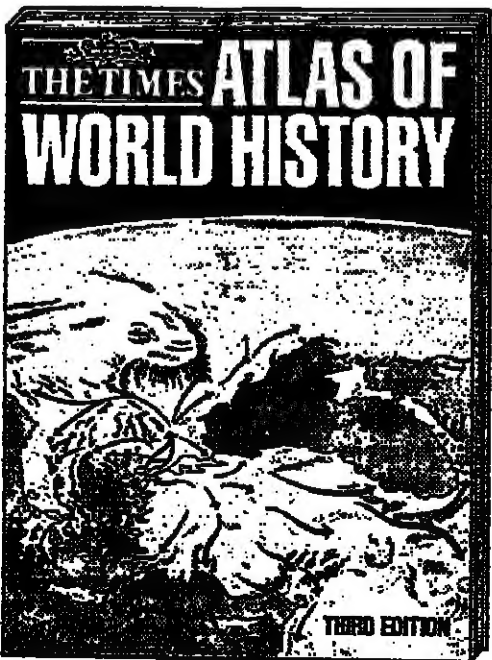
Age, Melbourne, which couldn't recall "ever enjoying a book so much," and the *Toronto Star* which thought it would make "a smashing family gift."

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penalita closes
British Coal yesterday confirmed it plans to shut Penallta pit near Ystrad Mynach, Mid-Glamorgan, because of geological problems and a shortage of coal reserves. Six hundred jobs will be lost and miners at the Deep Navigation pit at Trebarnis near by had planned to seek transfers to Penallta when their own pit closes at the end of this week. Union officials are to meet on Saturday.

Rifkind refusal
Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, has refused to reopen an investigation into the disappearance in a typhoon of the supertanker Derbyshire with the loss of 44 lives in the northwest Pacific in September 1980. Marine accident investigators were instructed last July to examine claims of a possible design weakness in the hull of the Derbyshire, the largest British ship lost at sea.

Surgery queue
A woman who waited 14 years for plastic surgery on her ears has changed her mind because she says she has got used to them sticking out. She is one of hundreds of people written to by Wessex regional health authority in an effort to validate waiting lists. It was found that a third of the 4,500 people waiting for operations had died, no longer wanted the procedure or had had treatment elsewhere.

Craig
BY MICHAEL PRESCOTT
THE war cabinet d...
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Femme fatale and lover hatched bizarre plot to murder husband and gain control of estate

Lawnmower couple found guilty of plot to murder husband

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE couple in the "lawnmower murder plot" were yesterday found guilty of conspiring to kill Christopher Whybrow, a barrister, in a fake accident with his ride-on grass cutter.

It took a jury at Norwich Crown Court two hours to agree that Mr Whybrow's wife Susan, aged 49, and her lover Dennis Saunders, a flying instructor aged 54, intended to kill him to secure their relationship and gain control of his £400,000 estate. The court had been told that the couple had planned to stage an accident with the lawyer's mower at the family home at Leavenheath, Suffolk, in which it would look as though Mr Whybrow had drowned when the machine toppled into a lake.

Mrs Whybrow and Saunders had admitted kidnapping Mr Whybrow at his home, but denied the murder attempt, saying they had only wanted to hurt him in retaliation for a beating he allegedly gave his wife. The judge, Mr Justice Kennedy, deferred sentencing medical and psychiatric reports on Mrs Whybrow. Both defendants

were remanded in custody. Mr Whybrow, the intended victim of what the court was told was "the most bizarre and hare-brained murder plot imaginable", was not in court to hear the verdict.

The prosecution told the jury that the couple had become lovers during the summer of 1989, after Mrs Whybrow took flying lessons. By the autumn she was planning to end her ten-year marriage by killing her husband. Mr Whybrow provided his wife with the idea for the plot after pointing out a newspaper story about the death of a mower driver whose machine had toppled into a ditch.

The murder attempt was made on October 18, 1989, when Mrs Whybrow suggested to her husband that they made love on the sitting-room carpet. Saunders, whom Mr Whybrow suspected of having an affair with his wife, was hiding nearby. He intended to surprise the lawyer, drag him outside and tip him and the mower into the duck pond.

Once Mr Whybrow had agreed to sex, his wife slipped outside to alert her lover, but

when she returned she found her husband was already undressed. Realising he would have to be fully clothed for the death to appear accidental, she persuaded him to get dressed with the suggestion that she wanted to strip him as part of their foreplay. As the couple embraced she manoeuvred him towards the back door.

Saunders pretended to be a burglar and bound, gagged and blindfolded the barrister, but the blindfold slipped and Mr Whybrow recognised him. At the pondside a struggle took place, during which Saunders called out to Mrs Whybrow: "Where's the knife?"

The barrister shouted: "Don't let him kill me." At first his wife made no response, but then she screamed: "You have been horrible to me. You have been horrible to me. You have been horrible to me." Saunders pulled a rope around his neck but Mr Whybrow managed to tear it away. He eventually broke free and swam across the water to a neighbour's house. As first they thought he was drunk, but eventually the police were called. A search of his house revealed the mower beside the pond, its engine still running. Saunders and Mrs Whybrow had fled to Italy.

Yesterday the investigating police officer, Det Sgt Philip Mason, said Mr Whybrow had been devastated by the plot to kill him. He said Mrs Whybrow had remained expressionless and emotionless throughout his inquiries.

The trial judge had told the jury before they retired they had to decide whether Mrs Whybrow was a "cold-blooded murderer" or a "child-like woman who saw the murder plot as a grand adventure. Mr Justice Kennedy said: "You have heard the phrase that this lady is a pretty good actress. She is able to jolly her husband back into clothes, saying that within minutes she is going to be taking them off him in an exciting way so that they are going to have a wonderful time together. She is not a little child. She is a sort of femme fatale."



The scene: The Whybrows' home and the pond where Christopher Whybrow was to meet his 'accidental' death



The three protagonists: Susan Whybrow, her husband Christopher, and her lover Dennis Saunders



The means: The lawnmower that was to be used in the plot to kill Mr Whybrow found abandoned by the pond

Life sentence for killer who grinned as policeman died

By ROBIN YOUNG

A MAN who shot and killed a policeman because his girlfriend had jilted him was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday at the Central Criminal Court.

Mr Justice Tucker described Mark Gaynor, aged 21, as "a thoroughly dangerous young man" guilty of "a most wicked, callous and cowardly act". He recommended that Gaynor should not be released for at least 25 years.

The court had been told that Gaynor shot PC Lawrence Brown, aged 27, in Hackney, London, at point-blank range on August 28 last year after luring him into an ambush by making a 999 call.

It was the second time Gaynor had faced a murder charge. When he was 17, police accused him of murder after a mugging, but the charge was dropped after consideration by the Crown Prosecution Service. Gaynor received a four-year youth custody sentence, and had been released only nine months before PC Brown was killed.

After his girlfriend, Leander Dupres, told him she had another boyfriend, Gaynor left her house, dug up two sawn-off shotguns he had stolen, made the 999 call, and hid behind a wall waiting for police to arrive. John Nutting, prosecuting, said Gaynor grinned before firing.

PC Brown lived in Essex with his wife Janet, aged 27, and their daughter Emma, then four months old. He joined the police when he was 18 and had known his wife, a nurse, since school. Mrs Brown's husband was on duty

the night he died only because he had volunteered for overtime to cover for colleagues.

After the shooting Gaynor was arrested single-handedly by PC Gerard Healey. When he found Gaynor hiding in a tower block the gunman said: "Okay, you got me. I did it. I shot the copper." Gaynor then bragged at Hackney police station: "I blew your copper away because my girlfriend blew me away. I just done it for my girl."

Chief Superintendent Niall Mulvihill told the jury: "Gaynor appeared to be basking in the attention he was receiving. He was clearly pleased with himself. He was bragging."

The court was told that Gaynor was aggressive and violent at school, played truant, and ran with delinquent gangs. His father played no part in his upbringing.

Kim Fraser, a defence psychiatrist, said Gaynor had sexual and personal relationship problems, and was suffering from mental illness at the time of the offence. A prosecution psychiatrist, Michael Brown, disagreed, saying he was "convinced this is not a case of psychosis".

Gaynor cut himself with a razor and talked about putting a noose around his neck while awaiting trial, and during the trial cut his throat in the cell under the dock, but was not seriously hurt.

As the trial neared its close one juror complained of being intimidated on the way to court. The judge ordered an investigation and measures to protect the jury.



Brown: lured into ambush by 999 call



Gaynor: "Thoroughly dangerous man"

Catholic outcast Lefebvre dies at 85

By CLIFFORD LONGLEY, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS EDITOR

ARCHBISHOP Marcel Lefebvre, the more-Catholic-than-the-Pope outcast who founded a new denomination rather than submit to Rome, died yesterday in Switzerland, aged 85. The irony of his position followed him to the grave.

Pope John Paul learnt "with pain" of his death and said a prayer for him, the Vatican said, adding that with some signs of repentance, the formal excommunication imposed in 1988 would have been lifted. Archbishop Lefebvre always dismissed this most conservative of Popes as a "modernist", his papal excommunication as null and void, and the

Second Vatican Council, 1962-3, as invalid and even, in its teaching of respect for individual conscience, heretical.

The Vatican went a long way to keep Archbishop Lefebvre and his Order of the Fraternity of St Pius X inside the Roman Catholic Church, in the name of the liberty of conscience he rejected so vehemently. Before the final break he was offered a deal: he would be allowed to keep his organisation if he accepted papal authority. The Vatican claimed he signed a draft agreement, but later repudiated it. "We never wanted to create a schism or heresy."

What was important was to remain Catholic, he said. Archbishop Lefebvre, charismatic to followers in spite of doctrinal dissent but for refusing an order in 1976 not to ordain more priests to his "fraternity" and in 1988 an order not to ordain four bishops. For the first matter, he was suspended from orders, a sentence he ignored, and for the second excommunicated, punishment that he defied. If he had left his followers without a bishop, they would have run out of priests, because ordinands at the seminary at Ecône, and

daughter seminaries in Argentina, Australia, France, Germany and the United States could not then be ordained.

Most of his movement, said to be 100,000-strong with about 240 priests, is in France, though its headquarters is in Switzerland, at Ecône. No modern reforms have been allowed there, and the ethos of pre-Vatican II Catholicism, even of the French *ancien régime*, is rigorously preserved. As well as rejecting freedom of conscience, the movement is contemptuous of the modern ecumenical movement and of the spirit of reconciliation with Jews. Critics say it refuses to come to terms with the French Revolution.

Asian railmen win promotion case

By PETER VICTOR

EIGHT Asian British Rail guards who alleged that promotion tests discriminated against candidates for whom English was not their first language won their case yesterday after an industrial tribunal in London.

British Rail agreed to redraw the tests and its selection procedures and to pay the eight men's costs after they agreed a settlement outside the tribunal.

Talvinder Jootley, 26, from east London, and Narendra Dhokla, 32, Vinod Dhokla, 42, Abdul Kharas, 28, Shaikh Kharas, 30, Dudakia Dilip, 39, Shabid Hamid, 34 and Nirmal Singh, 39, all from west London, failed selection tests to become train drivers three years ago. British Rail conceded yesterday that the selection process had discriminated against them.

The case was funded by the Commission for Racial Equality, which said that it would be seen as an important test for employers' use of similar staff selection techniques.

All the men were based at Paddington station in west London and had been guards for between three and 17 years when they took the tests in 1988 with four other Asian applicants and eight white guards. All the Asian ap-

Dr Carey describes his struggle

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

DR George Carey, who tomorrow becomes Archbishop of Canterbury, has described how he struggled through a tough childhood to gain an education and a lasting faith. "I had to struggle and I think that the struggle was important. In a sense one has been fighting all the way through, almost to say, hell, I'll show them," Dr Carey says in an interview with Anthony Clare, a psychiatrist.

"I was a deep-thinking young man and therefore

wrestling with the one major metaphysical question: Is there a God? If there is, can he be known? If he can be known, does he care for me?"

The interview will be broadcast on BBC's *Everyman* on April 14, a few days before Dr Carey's enthronement as Primate of All England on Augustine's Chair at Canterbury. Tomorrow, at St Mary-le-Bow Church, City of London, his election will be confirmed in a ceremony dating back to 1290.

Dr Carey tells Professor Clare that "discovering Christianity was also discovering education, coming as I

did from a working-class background". He says that when offered the chance to become the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, he "felt like a pygmy". He considered his predecessors and felt overwhelmed. "Why was I chosen?" he asks. "Maybe I'm unworthy."

He also refers to his controversial *Reader's Digest* interview, where he said: "The idea that only a male can represent Christ at the altar is a most serious heresy." He says that he meant to say "error" while making clear that he was sympathetic to the idea of women priests.

In Britain, there are five Lefebvrist priests, who claim more than 3,000 supporters. They have kept the Tridentine rite Mass, always in Latin, starting a "battle of the Masses" in London. The Tridentine form, dating from the 16th century, was superseded in the Roman Catholic Church in 1969 by a modified version that could also be said in English. Lefebvrist have attracted supporters who deplore English in the liturgy. To counter this, Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster has authorised three London churches to revive the Tridentine rite, in Latin, competing with Lefebvrist Masses.

Obituary, page 14

Craig surprised by failure of Iraqis to mount a stronger defence

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE war cabinet did not "miss a heartbeat" when the job of prime minister switched from Margaret Thatcher to John Major, according to the government's principal military adviser during the Gulf war.

Marshall of the Royal Air Force Sir David Craig, who retired next week as chief of the defence staff, said that the overall direction and support for the British forces carried on as before. "I found happily for me it didn't affect the way in which we were going about our business," he said yesterday.

Sir David said that the Ministry of Defence had contingency plans for almost every kind of scenario, but not for sending an armoured

division thousands of miles to engage in an offensive operation with a large number of allies. He praised the government for its rapid response.

Sir David, who is to be succeeded by Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent, said he was surprised that the Iraqis did not fight harder for their country once allied forces had penetrated its borders. "I didn't expect the Iraqis to fight for Kuwait after Saddam Hussein said he wasn't going to hold on to Kuwait," Sir David said in an interview at the defence ministry. "But I expected strong resistance in Iraq."

He dismissed the suggestion that the allied land campaign had been stopped too soon. "I think we

would have been rightly held to account for what would have seemed more and more like butchery." He added: "What we didn't want to see was a lot of Mutla Ridge." Mutla Ridge was where Iraqi forces were slaughtered as they tried to escape from Kuwait City along the highway to Basra towards the end of the ground war.

In one respect, however, the allied aims had not been completed. It was now necessary, through diplomatic means, to destroy what remained of Iraq's chemical and nuclear capability.

Sir David said that the lessons of the Gulf war would have to be taken into account in the government's "options for change" defence review. Until now the armed

forces had been subjected to "institutionalised overstretch", acting as a deterrent in Europe as well as being prepared to tackle "brush fires" elsewhere in the world. Now, with the changes in eastern Europe, Britain would be more occupied by fighting brush fires than deterrence. Sir David said that he expected the government to announce its options for change decisions by the summer.

Yesterday Britain's defence manufacturers appealed to the government to save the industry's future with increased involvement in military operations. Michael Rouse, director of British Aerospace operations in Saudi Arabia, said during a conference at the defence ministry that the Gulf war

had shown that the future needs of the military and industry should be integrated into a coherent policy.

The pregnant widow of Squadron Leader Garry Lennox, an RAF pilot who was killed in action during the Gulf war, attended his funeral yesterday at the church where they were married nine years ago, All Saints Church, Sherburn-in-Elmet, near York. Anne Lennox, aged 34, is expecting their second child next month.

Many of her husband's colleagues from 16 Squadron at RAF Leambrugh in Germany were at the funeral, where Wing Commander Ian Travers-Smith described him as a "total professional".



Sir David: retiring as chief of defence staff

Crash train driver 'over drink limit'

A TRAIN driver had twice the legal alcohol limit for motorists when his locomotive hit the back of a holiday express, killing him and injuring more than 30 passengers, an inquest heard yesterday (Craig Sutton writes).

Philip Sutton, aged 36, died from multiple injuries when his empty train, travelling at about 5 mph, crashed into the stationary Manchester-Penzance express at Stafford railway station last August.

At an inquest at Stafford yesterday into Mr Sutton's death, Terence French, a pathologist, said that two samples of stomach contents showed 155mg and 161mg of alcohol per 100 millilitres of blood - about twice the legal limit for car drivers. A urine sample showed 181 mg.

Alan Peel, a train crew manager, said he saw Mr Sutton, a father of three, drinking, but said: "I did not think he was unfit to drive a train." Other rail executives told the inquest that employees were not allowed to report for work under the influence of drink or drugs.

The Staffordshire coroner, Reginald Browning, told the jury to bear in mind the drink, and that Mr Sutton had been working for a long run of days. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter on Mr Sutton, of Lichfield, Staffordshire.

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Disaster jury set to retire

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By MICHAEL

British people consume less fat and less sugar than in the United States, but eat more fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, more lean meats, and more dairy products, according to a new survey by the Agricultural Research Service.

David M. Mays, the junior agricultural economist, said: "The American diet has been a dramatic change in the consumption of fats and sugars in the country, but it has also had a profound effect on the consumption of fruits and vegetables. These changes have been the result of a number of factors, including the fact that the American diet has become more health conscious, and the fact that the American diet has become more diverse."

Despite the fact that consumption of fat and sugar has increased, the percentage of energy intake derived from these two sources has declined from 40 percent to 35 percent. The percentage of energy derived from fat and sugar has declined from 40 percent to 35 percent.

'Cigarettes kill 300 non-smokers every year'

By THOMSON PRENTICE, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 300 non-smokers a year die from lung cancer caused by other people's cigarettes, a report endorsed by leading medical organisations said yesterday. Passive smoking also causes bronchitis and pneumonia in infants, and may contribute to heart disease and other conditions in adults, according to the report.

Professor Nicholas Ward, of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, who chaired the group that produced the report, said there was "no longer any disagreement among scientists that passive smoking is harmful to adults and children, and can be fatal". Infants of parents who smoked were as much as 50 per cent more likely to need hospital treatment for bronchitis and pneumonia, he said.

A study of almost 10,000 children, followed from birth to the age of ten, found a 14 per cent increase in childhood wheezy bronchitis when their mothers smoked more than four cigarettes a day, and a 49 per cent increase if mothers smoked more than 14 a day.

The document, prepared by a team of independent scientific experts, is the biggest concerted effort in Britain for some years to show that passive smoking is hazardous. Doctors and health educators hope the evidence will lead to legislation and voluntary controls to curb smoking in public places and at work.

The report has been funded by the health department, the Health Education Authority, and the main cancer, heart disease and asthma charities. Its findings are supported by more than 30 organisations, including the Royal College of Physicians, the British Medical Association, and the British Lung Foundation.

"The scientific consensus is that the losses in the United Kingdom are equivalent to at least one serious plague crash a year, that is about 300 deaths," the report said. The

Disaster jury set to retire

THE Hillsborough disaster inquiry enters its final stages today when the jury is expected to retire and consider the verdicts on why 95 football fans died at the Sheffield ground in April 1989 (Ronald Faux writes).

Dr Stefan Popper, the coroner, told the jury of four women and seven men that there were three possible conclusions: death by accident or misadventure, unlawful killing or an open verdict.

The tragedy happened at the Sheffield Wednesday ground during the FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest after police opened perimeter gates to allow fans in. The police, survivors of the disaster and the football authorities have given evidence in the 78 days of the inquiry.

In his summing up Dr Popper said the evidence suggested that the decision to open the gates had been "reasonable" because the officer in charge thought the situation outside the ground was becoming critical.

estimate is drawn from long-term studies showing the increased risks of the disease among non-smoking husbands or wives of smokers.

About 40,000 people a year in the UK were killed by lung cancer, and nine out of ten of those were smokers. Although the disease was rarely due to other causes, clear evidence that it could be caused by inhaling tobacco smoke from the environment had been difficult to gather, partly because the cancer may take many years to develop. Even so, the report said there was compelling evidence linking passive smoking with lung cancer in adults and serious respiratory illnesses in babies.

Dr Spencer Haggard, chief executive of the Health Education Authority, said: "There is a clear scientific case for taking action to restrict smoking in public places. We expect members of parliament to press for legislation to protect non-smokers, and employers to introduce, implement, and monitor strict smoking control policies at every workplace in the country. They owe their employees nothing less."

Passive Smoking: a Health Hazard (Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Cancer Research Campaign, from Passive Smoking, PO Box 4RP, London W1A 4RP, £3.95).

Council seeks national policy to protect estuaries

Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent, on a report showing how habitats of spectacular bird populations are threatened by marinas, barrages and rubbish tips

BRITAIN needs a national policy to protect its estuaries, the Nature Conservancy Council said yesterday. They were of great international importance for wildlife, yet current safeguards failed to protect them, it said.

In its final report before its disbandment next week into separate agencies for England, Scotland and Wales, the council called for a policy to save estuaries from threats ranging from industrial development and housing to tidal barrages and rubbish dumps. It did so on the basis of a detailed 420-page study of estuarine habitats and wildlife, which is likely to become a "bible" of coastal conservation.

The report brought comprehensive scientific backing to the alarm about estuary protection sounded last year by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. That said that millions of wading birds were at risk and accused Britain of failing in its responsibility to care for an international heritage.

The NCC report was less outspoken, coming from an official body, but no less forceful in the detailed picture it built up of the wealth and complexity of wildlife in Britain's 155 estuaries and the piecemeal but steady encroachments upon it. Professor Peter Evans, of the University of Durham, who

introduced the report yesterday, said that estuaries were often treated as wasteland, yet the areas between high and low water marks were enormously productive, producing up to 2½ tons of worms, snails and shrimps per hectare.

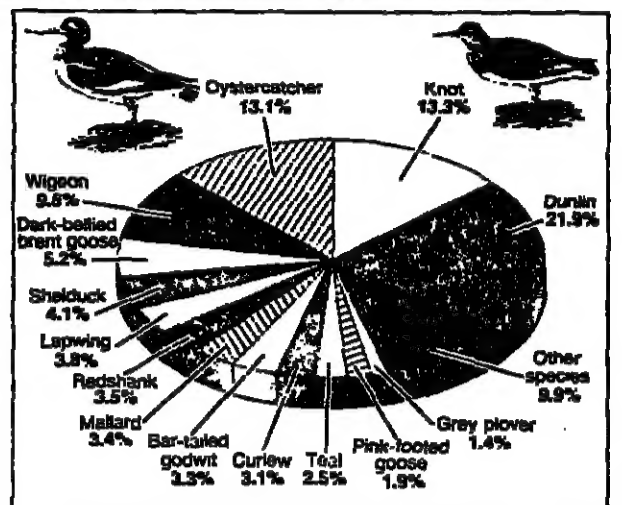
Nick Davidson, the NCC scientist who headed the study, said that estuaries formed almost half the nation's tidal shoreline and 28 per cent of the estuarine area of Western Europe, more than any other country. At least a third of British common seals bred on estuaries, he said; Scottish estuaries were vitally important for otters; 95 per cent of British natterjack toads, a highly endangered species, lived on estuarine sand-dunes; and economically important fish species bred in estuaries.

Most of all, however, British estuaries were renowned for their spectacular bird populations, supporting in winter more than 10 per cent of the entire international populations of 21 species of waterfowl. In January they contained more than 1,740,000 individuals.

The main threat was land-reclamation, the embankment or infilling of estuaries for agriculture or urban or industrial development, Dr Davidson said. In 1989, there had been 183 land-claims in progress, affecting 45 estuaries with



Sauntering: Fishing boats on the Tees estuary at Middlesbrough. Below: Estuaries' bird populations in January



rubbish or spoil disposal alone accounting for more than 60 per cent of them. A further 135 land-claims affecting 55 estuaries had been proposed, including barrages, marinas and other recreational developments, he said.

"Conservation is difficult to deliver within the present statutory framework because estuaries straddle the boundaries of land and sea, and the many administrative boundaries around our coasts," Dr Davidson said.

The RSPB welcomed the report. Phil Rothwell, its coastal policy officer, said: "It emphasises the appalling

Battle starts for Ron Todd's job

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

NOMINATIONS closed last night for candidates to succeed Ron Todd in the most important post in the trade union movement, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. Three hats had been tossed into the ring, but only two really mattered.

They belonged to George Wright, aged 55, regional secretary for the Wales region, who became a shop steward at Longbridge, Birmingham, at 24, and Bill Morris, aged 52, the union's deputy general secretary, who also began his professional union career as a shop steward in the Midlands.

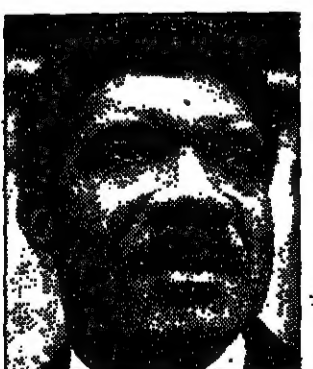
Bob Harrison, the TGWU's national secretary for food, drink and tobacco industries, who put himself forward as a candidate able to unify political factions in the union, has, as even his supporters concede, no chance of victory.

George Wright claims that the left-led TGWU risks terminal decline unless new policies are adopted, and Mr Morris has his own vision of strengthening the union, which has lost a million members in a decade. There are

differing opinions on whether the fact that Mr Morris is black is a help or a hindrance. Mr Morris says that he is a professional trade unionist, not a professional black man, while Mr Wright says that only policies matter.

The TGWU leadership has been described as the most powerful non-cabinet post in Britain. There is some truth in that, because the union still commands 18 per cent of the block vote at the Labour party conference, giving it a powerful influence in national politics. It is also a considerable paymaster of the party, contributing £1 million a year.

Mr Wright, who has twice lost to Mr Todd for the leadership, began his campaign with the support of eight of the union's 11 regional secretaries. More important, however, is the number of nominations candidates receive from the union's 7,000 branches. Last night, both sides were claiming that their candidate had most. In truth, it is too early to say whom Ron Todd will introduce as his successor at the union's biennial delegate conference in July.



Morris: hopes to move up from deputy leader's post



Wright: says that TGWU risks terminal decline

Fat gets the chop as Britons move towards healthier diet

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITONS are eating less fat and buying more fresh and frozen convenience foods, amid a long-term trend towards a healthier diet, according to the latest survey of eating habits by the agriculture ministry.

David Maclean, the junior agriculture minister, said: "Since 1985 there has been a dramatic increase in the consumption of low-fat products. Sales of skimmed and semi-skimmed milks have risen threefold and, across the board, purchases of fats have fallen by 10 per cent."

Despite the fall in fat consumption, the percentage of energy intake derived from fat in the average diet is still bigger than dieticians consider wise. This is partly due to a decline in other sources of energy, such as sugar. The proportion of energy gained from fat fell from 42.6 per cent in 1985 to 41.6 per cent

last year, but is still well above the 35 per cent limit that the health department recommends to reduce the risk of heart disease.

Mr Maclean said that growing demand for convenience foods was not confined to highly processed goods. "Purchases of fresh vegetable products, such as prepared salads, which have more than doubled over the five years, complement the trend towards healthy eating," he said.

Overall consumption of milk and cream continues to fall, but a 10 per cent drop in demand for whole milk between 1989 and 1990 was partly offset by a 15 per cent rise in skimmed milk sales. Skimmed milk accounted for 37 per cent of all milk drunk last year, up from only 12 per cent in 1985.

Consumption of fresh fruit remains high, some 15

per cent up on 1985, thanks notably to a 50 per cent rise in banana sales over the past five years. Dry weather and diminished supplies reduced sales of fresh vegetables (excluding potatoes) by 5 per cent last year, while pushing up spending by 7 per cent.

Egg sales fell slightly, but spending on eggs rose by 10 per cent, reflecting higher prices. The amount of meat and meat products eaten also fell, mainly because of lower demand for beef, due to fears about "mad cow" disease, and pork.

Weekly expenditure on food averaged £12.12 a head last year, up 62p (5.4 per cent) from 1989, and was about 12 per cent of consumer spending.

The survey does not cover drinks and confectionery or the estimated 6 per cent of meals bought and eaten away from the home.



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Cuts force closure of 10,000 training places for offenders

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 10,000 training places on schemes run by voluntary bodies for ex-offenders are to close after cuts of nearly 70 per cent in state funding.

The National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, which has issued 1,000 redundancy notices to staff, believes that up to 9,000 of its 13,000 adult training places will be lost. The Apex Trust, a charity devoted to training ex-offenders, is cutting 145 of its 240 staff and 1,200 of its 1,850 training places.

The Trust staged protests against the cuts at many of its 22 centres in England and Wales yesterday. It published statements of support for its work from ten leading firms and corporations, including British Telecom, the Wellcome Foundation and Marks and Spencer. At the charity's centre in Wirral dozens of former criminals staged a sit-in. Baroness Seear, the charity's chairman, said the



Baroness Seear: "Training must count as priority"

closures were ridiculous and sad because they would undermine government plans to reduce the prison population by expanding community punishments. "It is crystal clear that if offenders are going to be dealt with in the community they have to be given sensible things to do while they are in community. Job training must count as the priority," she said.

It is understood that Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, has protested privately about the plight of the specialist training courses, but has failed to persuade Michael Howard, the employment secretary, to offer "ring-fenced" funding for the schemes. Forty-one training centres face closure and 33 others will be reduced in size. Some, including workshops in Peckham and Southwark, south London, will close at the end of the week.

The upheaval is the result of cuts of £230 million in overall state support for adult training and the government's decision to devolve responsibility for training to the employer-led Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs). The TECs say training ex-offenders and other disadvantaged groups such as the physically handicapped is not mainly their responsibility.

Paul Cavadino, Nacro's chief press officer, said: "Some of the TECs are more sympathetic than others, but, in general, they seem to want to concentrate on people who are relatively employable. It obviously costs more to provide the kind of intensive,

long-term places that ex-offenders and others like them need."

The cutbacks would produce an "enormous reduction" in training for people with special needs and would sabotage the government's plans, encapsulated in the Criminal Justice bill, now before Parliament, for fewer jail sentences. Offenders are a much better prospect for non-custodial penalties if they have a place on a training scheme," he said.

Bill Mather, chief executive of the Apex Trust, said research had shown a strong link between unemployment and criminality. "In 1979," he added, "the Trust had just five employees. By last year it had 380 staff dedicated to this work and a presence in most major conurbations. By next week, if nothing changes, the infrastructure developed here with public money over the last ten years will have largely gone."

Baroness Seear believed the cuts might not have happened if the Home Office had been informed earlier of the impact of the shake-up in adult training on ex-offenders.



Back relief: Walkers on the South Downs in Sussex, scumpered by heavy kit and equipment, need struggle no more. From this weekend, these four llamas, and two others not in the picture, will be available for hire to take the strain. For a fee starting at £15 they will carry walkers' bags for up to five hours and eight miles. The six British-bred Peruvian llamas - golden males for a calmer temperament - belong to Jennifer and Michael Spooner who started keeping llamas in 1984. Their diet consists of hay and grazing and hence mix concentrate.

Channel 4 remakes banned programme

By ROBIN YOUNG

CHANNEL 4 has remade a television documentary that the BBC banned in 1986, and is to broadcast it as part of a series on secrecy and censorship.

Cabinet, from the BBC series *Secret Society*, was shelved after the corporation came under political pressure. The programme argued that, as prime ministers, James Callaghan and Margaret Thatcher had extended the role of secret cabinet committees to make important decisions. Channel 4 and the journalist Duncan Campbell failed in efforts to buy the unscreened documentary from the

BBC. Instead it has been remade, using Mr Campbell's original script.

Those appearing in the £4 million Channel 4 series *Banned* include the former director-general of the BBC Alasdair Milne, who approved the original programme, but was obliged to resign during the ensuing controversy.

Banned will also show *Mother Ireland*, a documentary postponed in 1988 because it included an interview with Mairead Farrell, an IRA member shot in Gibraltar; the ITV programme *Death on the Rock* about the shootings; and an interview with the leader of Sinn Féin, Gerry Adams, from the *Dispatches*

series. The voices of Mr Adams and Miss Farrell will be dubbed to conform with the government's ban on broadcasting the voices of IRA supporters.

The series will also include *The Propaganda War*, a *World in Action* programme shelved by Granada in 1981; an updated version of *Juvenile Liaison*, about police treatment of young offenders; the original film of *Brimstone and Treacle*, banned by the BBC; the Monty Python film *Life of Brian*, formerly banned by the BBC and ITV; and a Thames Television programme from the *Sex in Our Time* series, due to receive its first showing after a 15-year delay.

Lane rules fourth conviction unsafe

By CRAIG SETON

ANOTHER man serving a long prison sentence after being convicted on the evidence of the now disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad was cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday after Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, expressed great concern about an alleged confession to detectives.

Anthony Wellington, aged 26, who was serving a 10-year sentence for armed robbery,

was the fourth man to have his conviction quashed after claiming that the Serious Crime Squad fabricated evidence. Another 15 appeals are pending.

Lord Lane said yesterday that the court's concern over irregularities in a statement by Wellington to detectives had over-ridden its reluctance to intervene in the case. He said that an addition to the statement by the Crown as over-enthusiasm and not dishonesty, "does not engender great confidence".

Wellington's appeal was the first involving West Midlands police to be considered by the Lord Chief Justice since he was called on to resign after the release by the court of the six men convicted of the 1974 Birmingham pub bombings. The Birmingham Six had been interrogated by detectives from the force, including members of the Serious Crime Squad, and Lord Lane had dismissed their earlier appeal.

Wellington, from Handsworth, Birmingham, had claimed that detectives "doctored" his statement to turn it into a confession by inserting three new pages and making other additions to implicate him falsely in an armed robbery at a post office in Birmingham in 1986. The court was told the three pages were not a contemporaneous record of a police interview with Wellington, but were the only evidence against him. A jury at his trial at Birmingham Crown Court in 1988 had believed the "confession" and found him guilty.

Yesterday, Wellington's sentence was set aside when the court quashed his conviction for the robbery as unsafe and unsatisfactory. Wellington has served four years of a concurrent six-year sentence for other offences, which he admitted, and is due to be released from Long Lartin prison, Hereford and Worcester, today.

The court had heard that an electrostatic document analysis test suggested that three pages of an eight-page statement allegedly made by Wellington had been inserted later. It was indicated that the phrase "I was standing by the phone box" had had the words "keeping watch" added.

The Serious Crime Squad was disbanded in 1989 by Geoffrey Dear, the then West Midlands chief constable, after the collapse of a number of criminal trials over allegations of fabricated evidence. The squad's past practices are being investigated by West Yorkshire police, although after 19 months no officers have been charged. Since the enquiry began, three other men - Keith Parchment, Hassan Khan and John Edwards - have had convictions for robbery quashed and have been freed.

Climber pulled to his death

A rock climber fell 150ft to his death when a companion who was attached to him by a rope slipped and pulled him from the top of a cliff, a mountain rescue team member said yesterday.

George Lowe, aged 46, of Kendal, Cumbria, is thought to have been anchored to the cliff on Castle Crag, Borrowdale, Cumbria, when the rope jerked and pulled him over the edge. His companion, William Freeland, of Threlkeld, near Keswick, clung to the rocks below and eventually made his way to safety. The coroner for west Cumbria opened an inquest into the death yesterday.

Phone ban

Steven Goldie, aged 21, of Gosport, Hampshire, was banned from using public telephones when he was bailed until April 8 by Clerkenwell magistrates, north London, yesterday on a charge of making a hoax bomb warning.

Body found

Police divers yesterday found the body of Matthew Dean, aged eight, of Brentwood, Essex, who fell 50ft into the River Conwy, near Betws-y-coed, Gwynedd, after slipping from a path above a ravine at Fairy Glen on Sunday.

Bribery fine

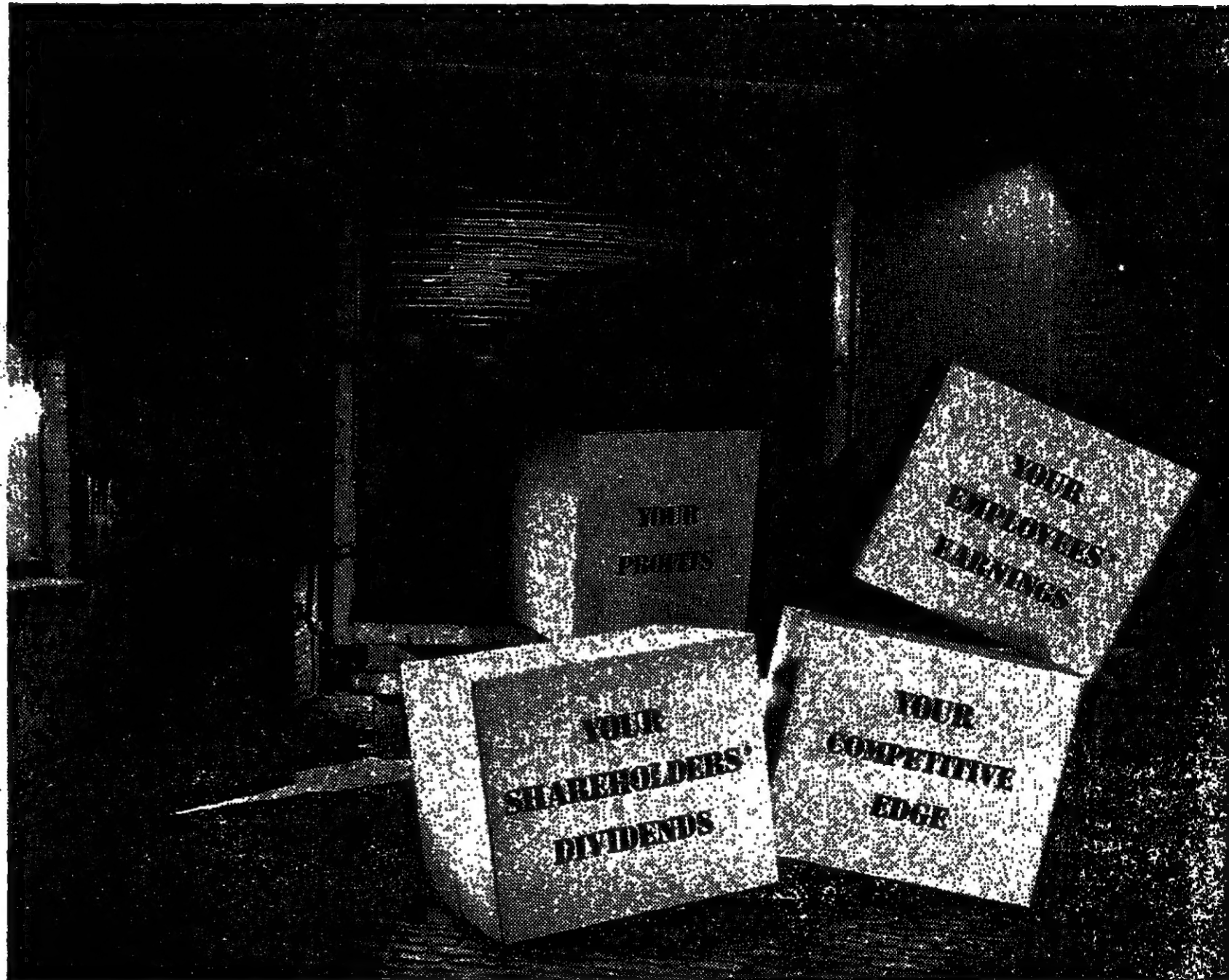
Won Jip Kim, aged 36, of Kingston upon Thames, was fined £10,000 and given a 12-month suspended jail sentence by Middlesex Guildhall crown court yesterday for trying to bribe the police.

More jobs go

The aero engineering group FFV Aerotech is calling for 115 voluntary redundancies from among its 345 workers at Manchester airport. The move follows plans to cut 900 other jobs at the airport.

£100,000 find

A pine bookcase believed to be one of the earliest pieces by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and worth up to £100,000 has been found at a house in Fife.



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CRIME
PREVENTION WEEK 15 APRIL 1991

Stop consulting, start deciding, Lawson advises government

By ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

A TOUGH warning to the government to stop consulting and start deciding was delivered last night by Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor. "The government is in danger of giving consultation a bad name," he said.

Speaking during the fourth and final day of the Budget debate in the Commons, he said that he had introduced a number of tax reforms but had not consulted about them. If he had done so, not one would have been possible to enact.

He quoted Pierre Mendès-France, the former French prime minister, who said: "To govern is to choose." Mr Lawson said: "I agree with that. To appear to be unable to choose is to appear to be unable to govern. Consultation is an aid to government... but we are in danger of seeing consultation as a substitute for government."

The principle of single-tier local authorities should be a firm government decision with consultation being concerned with the way it could be implemented sensibly. As for consulting on the nature of

the new local tax, that was nothing less than an inflexible recipe for dissent.

The Chancellor had not consulted about his change to a 17½ per cent value-added-tax rate and he congratulated Norman Lamont on a well kept secret.

Earlier, Mr Lawson had said that there should be single-tier local authorities with the responsibilities of local government and central government clearly defined. To achieve that, there would have to be a transfer of certain local responsibilities to central government.

There had been a strong case for that before the Budget. Now, with local authorities financing only 11 per cent of their spending, it was not possible. It was inconceivable that local government responsibilities could shrink to that extent.

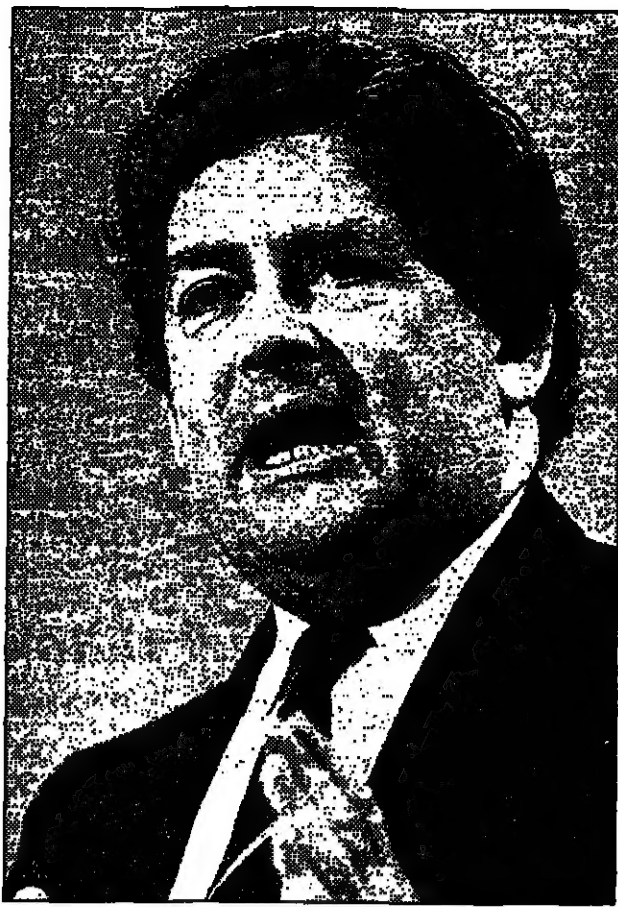
The proposed new tax was to be part property tax, and part poll tax. With discounts and with people in higher-value areas paying more than those in lower-value areas, that would have been the right

answer before the Budget. Now there were public expenditure dangers as well as political difficulties.

Under both governments, central government grant to local government had been reduced in percentage terms. If they were to control public expenditure, no other option was possible because local authorities would always spend more if they could.

The government was hoping that it could restrain local spending by capping but there was a limit to the strain that capping could take. Therefore, having gone as far as the Chancellor now had in cutting the amount of revenue local authorities raised themselves, he was driven to the conclusion that "we have to go the whole hog and abolish local authority taxation altogether".

Mr Lawson argued the case for the present zero rate of VAT to be raised to 5 per cent. When VAT was introduced, he recalled, the gap was between zero and 10 per cent. Now it was 17½ per cent, which was far too much and economically undesirable.



Lawson: ministers giving consultation a bad name

He was putting that forward because the government appeared to be engaged in yet another consultative process. "Therefore, that is my contribution to the consultation process".

Gordon Brown, Opposition trade and industry spokesman, said that since last

week's "Budget for business" 14,000 redundancies had been announced and at least 300 companies had gone under. The government's response was to panic and dither and then make any decision, so long as it held together the divided factions of the Tory party.

Women's ministry 'is Labour vote-winner'

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour Party outlined plans yesterday for a ministry for women, claiming that the plan was popular enough to determine the outcome of the general election.

Jo Richardson, the party women's spokesman, said: "A secretary of state for women in the cabinet will make sure women's voices are heard at the centre of power. All government departments will be required to have a minister with responsibility for equal opportunities."

"Bills must be produced with an impact statement for their effects on women and each government department will have to produce annual reports on their policies for women. There will be regular women's questions in the chamber, ensuring that Parliament devotes a much more equal amount of time to women's concerns."

Clare Short, a member of Labour's national executive, said at the launch that the plan was popular with women. "These policies might well be central to shifting enough votes to ensure a Labour victory."

Ms Richardson said that the women's department would be small, about the size of the

Office of Fair Trading. No budget had yet been fixed for the ministry, and the timetable would depend on resources.

Labour argues the case for a women's ministry on the grounds that there are only 44 women among Westminster's 650 MPs and that overt discrimination in society needs to be tackled. Although the same arguments could be used in relation to ethnic minorities, the party has decided against an equality ministry.

Ms Richardson said that Labour's top priority would be to strengthen sex discrimination law and the Equal Opportunities Commission to enforce it. "The ministry for women will be more than just another Whitehall department. It will be a stimulus to the traditional departments and a catalyst for change." It

would be a think tank for other departments.

The document outlining the ministry says that it would ensure that local authority services were provided on an equal opportunities basis and encourage women to participate in public life. The minister would be able to secure deferment of cabinet discussion, with the prime minister's agreement, where women's interests were involved.

There would be studies on the social effects of pornography. More areas will be "trawled" to encourage women into public life. The report says that a more normal working day would make it possible for more women to become MPs and "discourage the late night atmosphere of a male club".

Leading article, page 13

Scandinavia gives equal rights but no cabinet seat

PUBLIC recognition of women's status in the rest of Europe includes equal rights but no separate ministry in Scandinavia and a minister without a cabinet seat in France.

SCANDINAVIA: equality of the sexes has advanced further in the Nordic countries than anywhere else, but none has felt it necessary to create a ministry of women. One Icelandic woman official was appalled at the suggestion: "That is the worst I have heard - as if women were separate from humanity".

The Norwegian cabinet includes a minister for children and family affairs. Otherwise, in all five countries - Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland - women's issues are handled by one or more of the orthodox ministries.

Iceland has a women's party and Norway's cabinet has nine women among its nineteen ministers, including the prime minister. In the Finnish election this month, women won 77 of the 200 parliamentary seats.

GERMANY: in 1986, West Germany decided to give a government member responsibility for women's affairs and the portfolio was added to that of the health, youth and family minister from the start of 1987. The post has been held by a woman ever since, although from the start of this year when the new government was formed the ministry was divided into three separate

departments, each with its own cabinet minister.

The ministry concentrates much of its attention on making sure that motherhood does not interfere with a career. All new legislation has to be vetted to ensure that it does not discriminate against women, with the ministry having the power to veto discriminatory laws.

FRANCE: a Ministère des Droits de la Femme was created in 1981 by the socialist government of Pierre Mauroy. Yvette Roudy was the first minister. In 1988, a new organisation called the secretariat of state for women's rights was created with Michelle André at its head.

Its brief is now defined as "taking all measures and actions required to improve women's rights in social and economic life and of correcting the inequalities to which they are subject".

Mme André does not have full ministerial rank and thus does not sit in the cabinet. Her budget for this year is about £10 million.

According to a recent opinion poll, 92 per cent of French women approve wholeheartedly of the existence of the secretariat and what it is trying to achieve; 6 per cent did not.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Questions: Employment; prime minister. Community charges (general reduction) bill, all stages.
Lords (2.30): Criminal justice bill, committee, first day.

MPs learning to love the cameras

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS MPs prepare for the publication today of a report setting out the proposed arrangements for the permanent televising of Parliament, most of them are surprised at how little has changed since the cameras entered the Commons.

The worst fears of those opposed to allowing television into the chamber have failed to materialise. The cameras have also made a star of Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker, who has become a cult figure on the other side of the Atlantic.

MPs have passed their screen test. Suits are smarter. Dresses are often in primary colours, with red popular on the Tory benches.

John Biffen, a former leader of the House, suggested why the pessimists had been confounded. He said: "I do not believe that the reaction to the televising has been as anticipated because on the whole there have not been conscious attempts to engage in outrageous self-publicity. For that one thanks the qualified good sense of MPs but more particularly the broadcasters. This is one more example where the relationship between politics and the media is in that rather elusive department obtained in the lobby. There is common cause in preserving the institution rather than ridiculing it."

On the whole what is most remarkable about television is how little it has changed the House of Commons. Neil Kinnock's questions are shorter and he is more relaxed. John Major smirks and grins

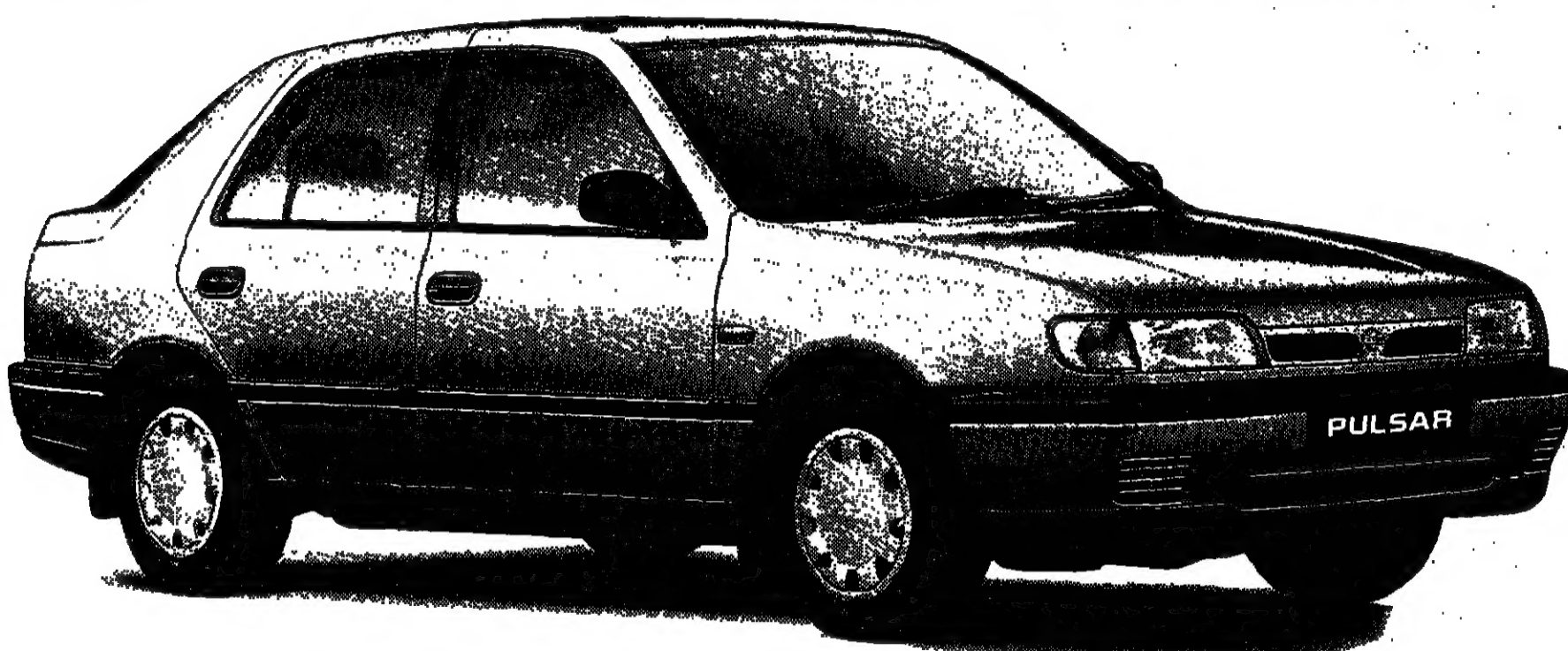


Biffen: common cause in preserving institution rather too much, but then viewers probably find a relief after the steady stare of Margaret Thatcher.

The host of points of order and interruptions that greeted the initial arrival of the cameras have died down. However, Mr Biffen still hopes for an improvement in parliamentary manners during the twice weekly instalment of prime minister's questions. "Parliamentary control of the prime minister is Parliament at its least effective and the office of prime minister has grown over the last two decades. Instead of a real parliamentary relationship, we have an oral shouting match twice a week."

Those MPs who hoped that the cameras would bring change in the arcane procedures of the House have been disappointed, however. Mr Biffen said: "The changes in our procedures will be much less than had been previously suggested."

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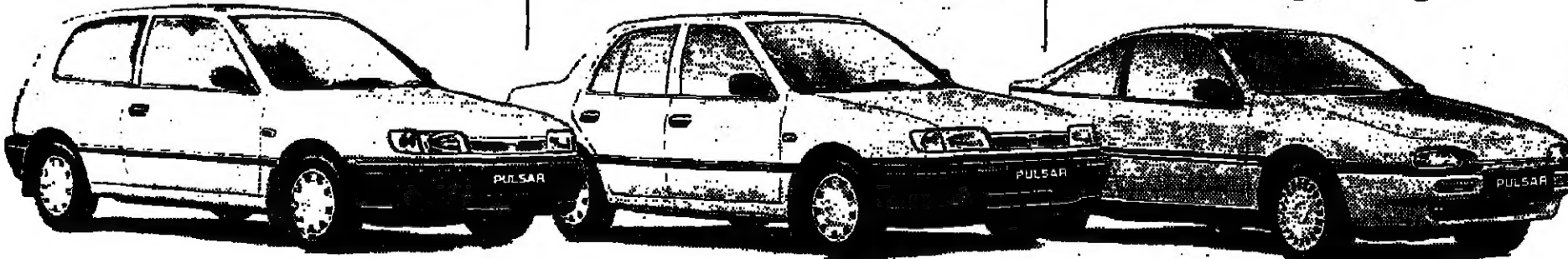
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Cheating teachers blot the copybook

TO BE lazy when taking a high-school entrance examination in Japan might be considered shortsighted, given that entire careers and futures depend on success. To be idle when cheating, however, is downright stupid.

Last week, three Japanese were caught cheating in their entrance examination for the Hyogo prefectural agricultural high school. However, the three were not summoned to appear before the headmaster to be disciplined. This is because the head was one of the three caught red-handed with pencil and rubber.

Yoshiharu Ishida, principal of the school, and two senior teachers were arrested last week for doctoring the entrance exam papers of 15 of 399 applicants for the school's 240 places. Mr. Ishida told the police that four influential legislators on the prefectural assembly and members of the school's alumni association had requested his help in arranging for their sons and others to pass the exams. He told the police that he had been "unable to decline" because the four hold a great deal of influence in the agricultural industry. We are indebted to them daily."

The headmaster and his two alleged accomplices, Shiroo Kitagawa and Hisanaka Ikeda, are said to have spent two hours after the entrance examination on March 15 in Mr Ishida's office, correcting wrong answers and filling in blanks in the multiple choice papers to ensure the 15 students passed. While they are alleged to have begun their tampering session intending to disguise their handwriting, they apparently became bored and reverted to their own script.

The school's imaginative approach to examination marking is no exception in Japan. Observers estimate that up to 50 per cent of places at the country's most important private schools and universities are filled via good connections or the offer of donations to the schools' or teachers' bank accounts.

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, is to make a five-day visit to China next week, the first by a senior Western foreign minister since the shooting of students in Tiananmen Square in 1989. He will also spend three days in Hong Kong.

His visit, announced by Xinhua, the official Chinese news agency, will be seen in Peking as an important signal of China's return to the international fold after its diplomatic isolation by the West.

Hu will have talks with Qiao Qun, his Chinese counterpart and is expected to meet Li Peng, the prime minister, who is closely lined in Chinese minds with the kiln.

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

LI PENG, the prime minister of China, opened the annual session of parliament in Peking yesterday with a defiant declaration that the country would resist the efforts of "foreign hostile forces" to subvert socialism, and it would remain "firm as a rock in the East."

Mr Li's state-of-the-nation speech, lasting nearly three hours, failed to mention the 1989 student movement and its accompanying political upheaval. It appears he hopes this embarrassing episode can now be conveniently forgotten.

However, the Chinese leader's revealing message, which he delivered to the people's democratic dictatorship led by the working class, developing a socialist planned commodity economy, and adhering to Marxist-Leninist and Maoist thought. At the same time, and in keeping with tradition to the ideological blinkers which he offered, he said China would carry on with policies of re-

In the next ten years, China will be faced with a volatile international situation, in which foreign hostile forces will continue their attempts to perpetuate the "peaceful encirclement" of China," Mr. Li said. His words seemed to reflect a paranoia brought on by watching the collapse of the communist monopoly on power in eastern Europe. In

not have a say in projects undertaken before 1997, and that the plans will become uneconomical if scaled down. Mr Hurd may be hoping to bring about a compromise.

The agenda will also include discussions of world issues where China's participation is crucial, including the Gulf. Britain believes that, as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China should be brought out of its isolation and constituted as extensively as the Soviet Union. Such talks will restore confidence in Peking that the West is ready for a more co-operative relationship.

Another issue that will come up in Hong Kong and possibly also in Peking is the renewed influx of Vietnamese boat people. Hundreds more have begun arriving in Hong Kong, and many are making their way overland through China. Despite efforts to persuade them to return, there are still about 52,000 in camps in Hong Kong, and arrivals outnumber deportures.

Britain, Canada and Australia yesterday convened a conference in Geneva under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to try to enforce a unified world response. Vietnam and the United States are involved, and Britain is hopeful that Hanoi can be persuaded to give a formal declaration that anyone returning to Vietnam will not be persecuted.

Britain is hoping the conference will uphold the principle of screening, and the countries where the Vietnamese are seeking to emigrate will admit more boat people. Britain has already agreed to take 2,000.

John Major raised the issue with President Bush during his recent talks in Wash-

ington. Privately, the US administration has understood Hong Kong's dilemma in carrying out forced repatriation. But opinion in Congress and the media has been critical. Mr. Hurd is expected to inspect boat-people camps.

Image maker: the prostitute leaning in a doorway may become a rare sight in Bangkok if the reforms succeed

A decision by Bangkok's new military rulers to declare war on prostitution will threaten the lucrative tourist business. Neil Kelly writes

after its first meeting is opened by King Bhumibol on Thursday.

The new policy appears to be having some success. When 8,000 American sailors arrived from the Gulf for leave in Pattaya last weekend, the beach resort

south of Bangkok where bars, massage parlours and transvestite shows have given it the reputation of "sin city", they were not met by the thousands of bar girls who normally flock to Pattaya when the fleet comes in. Instead, on the beach were many of the sailors' wives and children, some who had travelled from America.

At times, Pattaya beach has been the scene of battles between the "service girls", as they are called by Thai officialdom, and women's rights activists and Aids

spreading HIV, the Aids virus. He estimated that 300,000 Thais were HIV-infected, and the World Health Organisation said recently there might be 1.5 million Thai carriers by 1995. A medical examination three months ago of young men called up in an area of northern Thailand for military service discovered that 14 per cent were infected, almost three times the number found in a survey one year earlier.

The drive against big crime is expected to be little more successful than previous efforts, as some suspects are known to have friends in high places.

Charoen Pattanamdamrong, a "godfather" from the northeast, called on General Sunthorn Kongsompong, the supreme commander who led the coup last month, and an old friend, to say he would support any action to curb crime. He was not worried personally but acknowl-

personally, but acknowledged that he would have to adapt to the new situation.

[illegible]



A CHANCE OF PEACE

The formal acceptance by the Ulster Unionists of talks over the future of Northern Ireland marks the first breakthrough in negotiations in the province for many years. Like all such initiatives, the battle honours can be claimed by the current secretary of state, Peter Brooke, while the parties offering him his triumph can safely await events.

Nobody should doubt the significance of the fact that the Unionist leadership has agreed to sit down, first with the nationalist politicians in Northern Ireland and later with the Dublin government. Mr Brooke has laboured for over a year and brought forth that essential component of any British initiative, a "new element". This time it is the prospect of Unionists in talks with Dublin.

Such talks form the first of the famous three building blocks of a settlement: the recognition of an "Irish dimension" by the Unionists, while simultaneously protecting the integrity of the Union. While this is good news, it is no more than was achieved in 1973, when a Council of Ireland was created at Sunningdale, but was followed by the collapse of attempts at power-sharing in the Northern Irish Executive.

The other two building blocks are no more than agenda items: the re-establishment of a devolved government, and some form of community power-sharing. Without both, any return to political and governmental normality in the province is inconceivable, and devolution as distant as ever. While Mr Brooke has undoubtedly increased the jaw-jaw, he cannot pretend to be bringing the war-war to an end — despite the Northern Ireland Office's usual line about "having the terrorists on the run at last".

Drugs, crime and gangsterism are becoming endemic parts of the Northern Irish economy under British rule. Since Mr Brooke, like his predecessor, Tom King, appears to believe that the ending of direct

rule is impossible until terrorism has been defeated, the prospect for rebuilding a responsive democracy for the province is bleak. Northern Ireland has not yet escaped from the familiar direct rule trap: the indefinite presence of the governors to protect the welfare of the governed.

As for the third block, power sharing, the Official Unionist leader, James Molyneux, is dogmatic and specific. There would be no "compulsory, permanent coalition" with the nationalists. Optimists can dissect that phrase for signs of hope: perhaps a "voluntary", perhaps an "impermanent" coalition? But Mr Molyneux was covering his tracks. If the Official Unionists take that view, Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists cannot afford to dissent.

Some form of power-sharing, perhaps under a complicated system of local confederalism, remains a necessary though not a sufficient condition for a Northern Irish settlement. Some power-sharing, some sharing of the spoils of office, some sharing of the bounty of the British tax subvention, has to be the outcome of any new round of talks. The potency of this need is indicated by the rise of another kind of "power-sharing": the kind that is practised among the paramilitaries, the gangs, the territorial drug dealers. Northern Irish people know that they must live together, with or without the British and with or without the law.

The tragedy of modern Ulster is that power-sharing has been hijacked by the outlaws. If external agents, whether in Westminster or in Dublin, can bring Catholics and Protestants and their political leaders back within the bounds of provincial democracy, so much the better. But they have failed for almost two decades. Mr Brooke has pronounced yet another, and possibly the last, bid for what is known as a conventional solution. It is impossible not to wish him well, and necessary to restrain scepticism for the duration.

COURTING FEMALE VOTES

Making a play for the women's vote can be a lucrative game in politics. The "gender gap" — the difference between the way women and men vote — has recently tended slightly to favour the Conservatives. Labour now hopes to woo back women voters with a policy document which advocates a new ministry for women with a seat in cabinet. Will it work?

Broadly, the two sexes cast their votes for more or less the same reasons, whether they be the state of the economy, the health service, education or defence. That should be a source of comfort to those who, for decades, have fought for politics to be neutral between the sexes. But recently at least, neither of the main political parties has offered a strikingly different manifesto for women. Since the sex discrimination and equal pay acts introduced by the 1974-9 Labour government, little further has been done to redress the earnings imbalance between the sexes. Women make up 42 per cent of the workforce, but their average pay, as a percentage of men's, still hovers around 75 per cent, no better than in 1976. If one political party seemed to be way ahead of the others in its attitude to women, would it capture more women's votes?

Labour is promising that a secretary of state for women, with her own department, will "make sure women can take their rightful place at the centre of power and influence." A worthy enough goal, but how will another layer of bureaucracy achieve it? The portents are not good: Harold Wilson's shiny new department of economic affairs, designed to counterbalance the might of the Treasury, lasted barely five years. Edward Heath loved rebuilding departments as an answer to political problems. Margaret Thatcher eschewed this Lego approach. For it has never been shown to achieve anything.

Grand as a new ministry for women sounds, it may just be counter-productive. In a cabinet dominated by men, the inclusion of a token, female, minister for

women will lead only to back-peddling. Labour claims that the women's minister will "work closely with ministers from other departments". In the real world, the men in charge of the big departments will feel no pressing need to consider the impact their policies will have on women if a minister for women will do that for them. They will try to fight off her demands, just as they gang up against the Treasury. Rather than creating a female-friendly culture in Whitehall, such a ministry may end up achieving the reverse. Women could be placed in a ghetto.

The experience of other countries has shown that ministers for women are only effective when they have the overt backing of a prime minister or president. When they fall from favour, they become an easy target for ridicule. Such was the fate of Yvette Roudy, once President Mitterrand's protégée, who subsequently lost his support and thus her influence.

If a prime minister has the political will to improve the lot of women, his policies will reflect such a commitment. He will chivvy his ministers to think of the effect their actions will have on women. He will toughen anti-discrimination laws and strengthen the Equal Opportunities Commission's law enforcement role. He will not need a token minister for women in his cabinet.

If he really wants to win the women's vote, his party will find itself more women members of Parliament. He will promote the best of these to ministerial and, eventually, cabinet rank. Women at large are better served if their voice is heard in cabinet — heard on merit, not as a supposedly disadvantaged group. That voice would be more effective coming from a female Chancellor of the Exchequer, foreign secretary or home secretary than from a purely symbolic secretary of state for women, who has only won her place in cabinet by virtue of her sex.

YES, CHANCELLOR

Norman Lamont must rue the moment he listened to the civil servant who remarked that perhaps the draft Budget speech was, well, just a little dull, Chancellor, and was there not room for a touch of humour in a couple of the less important places? So pens came out, margins were scribbled in, and low and behold: "I turn now to one of the greatest scourges of modern life, the mobile telephone." This was followed by, "I hope that as a result of this measure, restaurants will be quieter and roads will be safer." He was duly written up as the man who jabbed a steak knife in the Yuppies. Nothing could have been more symbolic of the end of Thatcherism than the tax on mobile phones.

Now Mr Lamont finds himself on a crossed line. The perks brigade has declared war. Sir William Clark, chairman of the Conservative backbench finance committee, is refusing to see the funny side and said yesterday the car-phone tax is "ridiculous". He might have deserved support had he said that the reason given in the Budget was ridiculous. But the tax itself is perfectly justifiable.

Car and other mobile telephones should not be taxed because of the irritation they cause in restaurants nor for their danger on motorways. If that was the reason Mr Lamont should have taxed wrist-watches which beep at the theatre, a true scourge. Nor is there any likelihood that taxing mobile phones will banish them, or make them any safer or quieter. They are here to stay and are a considerable boon to businessmen away from their desks, as husbands away from their wives and, as

letters to *The Times* have pointed out, to single women stranded in their cars. They are a thoroughly beneficial, technological advance in which, as their salesman rightly point out, Britain leads the world.

The issue is whether those receiving them from their employers should be taxed on them as a perk, in the same way as company cars and other benefits in kind bear tax. Cub Yuppies on the standard rate of income tax will find themselves £50 a year worse off, senior Yuppies in the higher bracket, £80. Nobody pretends that the phones are exclusively for business use, any more than the cars they usually occupy. Mr Lamont has merely put an annual £80 tax on an executive perk — making it probably the most desirable obligation any taxpayer has willingly incurred.

The logic of the car-phone tax is inescapable, even without the case for it as a vanity tax. If a company pays for an employee to have a telephone at home, this is deemed a casual benefit and is taxable. A car is an extension of a home, even if it is a company car. Phones put into a car for the convenience of the driver should be treated just as their near relatives sitting on the domestic sideboard.

"Outdoors", by extension, is also private space. Those who go outside with their phones — incidentally invading other people's private space with their ringing and chatting — are benefiting from a perk no less than if they were sitting in their cars or at home. Mr Lamont was right. He was taxing expenditure at its most vain and voluntary.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Telephone 071-782 5000

Agenda for reform in dispensing criminal justice

From Lord Haddock of Lillingston

Sir, As long ago as April 1976 the Devlin committee, of which I was a member, ended its inquiry into two miscarriages of justice with this recommendation: "... that the Home Office should study the feasibility of setting up an independent review tribunal in which cases unsuitable for reference to the Court of Appeal could be handled."

It might be of interest to your readers to know whether the Home Office acted on this recommendation, and if so with what result.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY HUTCHINSON,
House of Lords,
March 19.

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC
Sir, Amid the welter of comment on the failings of the criminal justice system, there are some helpful suggestions for improving the scope of criminal appeals. One such suggestion is to give the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) the power to carry out investigations on its own account which it cannot currently undertake.

By section 9(d) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 the old Court of Criminal Appeal could, if it was thought necessary or expedient in the interests of justice, order a special commissioner to conduct an enquiry and to report on any matter arising on an appeal which involved prolonged examination of "documents or accounts, or any scientific or local investigation".

This power was never exercised and was dropped from the legislation in 1966 which established the present Court of Appeal (Criminal Division). The power should be revived, and used in the future.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
2 Rippledale Grove, NI,
March 22.

From His Honour Judge Keith McHale
Sir, Injustice results from acceptance of untrue evidence. It probably occurs most frequently in magistrates' courts and it is not limited to the occasional notorious case. Although police honesty cannot be guaranteed, it may be wrongly assumed.

The law needs to make fabrication less easy or less successful. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act has done much, but it is not time to assume that convictions based on confessions — to police alone — are unsafe as a class, rather than seeking to distinguish the true from the false.

If confessions made when police only were present became inadmissible in evidence, more guilty would be acquitted at first, but less-ready access to suspects after arrest might encourage investigators to look elsewhere for proof of guilt, and the detection rate might improve.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH MCMALE,
Old Lodge, 141 Albemarle Road,
Beckington, Kent.

From Sir John Rawlinson
Sir, Is it too much to hope that one result of the royal commission on the criminal justice system will be to introduce sentencing by computer? The jury having found the defen-

dant guilty, all the relevant facts of the case, including the defendant's past record, state of health, social background, etc., would be fed into the computer which would compare it with all previous cases, come up with a recommended sentence and even assess the effectiveness of previous sentencing by comparing the rate of recidivism.

The judge would not be bound by the recommended sentence but a sentence differing by more than, say, two standard deviations would need to be endorsed by a higher court.

The law, more than any other aspect of our lives, is based on precedent. And when it comes to precedent the computer reigns supreme.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RAWLINSON,
Little Cross, Holne,
Newton Abbot, Devon.

From Mr Keith Pledest
Sir, Sir Michael Davies (March 22) highlights an anomaly which has long since puzzled me. Magistrates have to retire at 70. Their jurisdiction and powers are strictly limited, they usually sit as a tribunal, and they commit more serious matters to a crown court. The latter is customarily presided over by a circuit judge, retirement age 72, who has draconian sentencing powers.

However, not even the circuit judge necessarily has the last word. There is still an appeal procedure, and certain very serious crimes,

murder being an example, have to be brought before a judge of the High Court — retirement age, as Sir Michael points out, currently 75.

If a retirement age differential is thought necessary, perhaps it should be applied in descending, not ascending, order of antiquity.

Yours etc.,
KEITH PLEDDEST,
Nastend Court,
Nr Stonehouse, Gloucestershire,
March 22.

From Mr James G. Bradshaw

Sir, Our jury system is no longer working effectively. It results in an unacceptably high acquittal rate in contested trials, including many scandalous miscarriages of justice, and is a relic of times when there were accepted standards of behaviour which do not now apply. It is ineffective to deal with the ever-increasing flood of violent crime which is ruining the quality of life of so many sections of the community.

An inquisitorial method in which every relevant fact about an accused person is on the table, under the testing supervision of a judicial officer, would be far better suited to modern conditions. We cannot any longer afford the adversarial system which with Queensberry rules which were the glory of the Victorian age.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES G. BRADSHAW,
The Manor House,
Wellburn, York,
March 22.

The law and the Birmingham Six

From Mr W. Finlay Moir

Sir, Professor von Simson, who raises fears for the independence of the judiciary (March 22), should feel reassured that democracy in this country is sustained by the freedom that people have here to speak out when they feel that a public figure is not performing as he or she should. To suggest that the recent criticism of some judges in Britain has anything in common with that of the National Socialist press in Hitler's Germany is to stand the situation on its head.

As for a judge having "to look over his shoulder", why not? A judge is appointed to administer the law fairly, without fear or favour, on behalf of the people. His or her tenure of office may have greater security than that of a cabinet minister, but that doesn't mean they cannot or should not be criticised in respect of their performance, or that they are not accountable to the people.

The suggestion by his Honour Lyall Wilson (also March 22) that the judge is as much a victim of deception as the accused is academic. The "real life" factor is that his victimisation did not amount to his spending 16 years in jail.

Yours faithfully,
W. FINLAY MOIR,
11 Beechgrove Avenue, Aberdeen,
March 22.

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, As a signatory of the early day motion which calls on the Lord Chief Justice to resign, I can assure Judge Beddard (March 20) that I, for one, have frequently drawn attention, both in and out of the House,

to the mass murder which occurred in November 1974 and to those injured, and some paralysed for life, as a result of action of the Provisional IRA.

However, justice and the rule of law is hardly served if innocent people are imprisoned for crimes they were not at all involved in. If the Provisional IRA has gained any kind of political mileage in this particular case, it is because of the failure of the judicial system in convicting the wrong people — not, of course, that those who are responsible for such numerous crimes and atrocities over 20 years have any interest in justice.

Yours etc.,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons,
March 20.

From Mr Ronald Higgins

Sir, Judge Beddard, like others, speaks of the "true villains in this tragedy" being the actual terrorists. But surely we all share some responsibility for this awful episode, whether by action or inaction. And since we frequently enough make national acts of thanksgiving for great occasions or feats of arms, should we not now contrive a national act of contrition?

I do not suggest a barefoot procession of judges, chief constables and others from the law courts to St Paul's, but we ought to do something.

Yours etc.,
RONALD HIGGINS,
Little Reeve, Vowchurch,
Hereford,
March 25.

No 1 Poultry

From Professor Emeritus T. F. Davenport

Sir, In the discussion regarding the relative merits of the Mappin & Webb building in Victoria Street and its projected replacement (Letters, March 15, etc.) one important factor has been overlooked: the present edifice was built by highly-skilled artisans working chiefly by hand.

Part of the aesthetic pleasure deriving from the contemplation of such an artefact consists in noting the care and quality of the workmanship. There will never be anything built like this again — certainly not on a large scale. Skilled labour in the 19th century was incredibly cheap, and since then the increase in wages has been massive and irreversible.

It seems to me therefore that buildings of this kind should not be destroyed and replaced by fabricated structures, however appealing, while there is room for such structures to be put up elsewhere.

The arguments put forward by your correspondents, that the present buildings are internally unsatisfactory, are trivial. Interiors can be improved.

Yours etc.,
T. F. DAVENEY,
The Old Chapel, Whiddon Down,
Okehampton, Devon.

Aim of red routes

From Mr Edmund King

Sir, It really is too soon to jump to conclusions about the London red routes (report, later editions, March 19) particularly when the conclusions are based on incorrect anecdotal evidence.

The Metropolitan Police have confirmed that the road death on January 7 was unrelated to the red route. If the road is dubbed Route 96 because each stop costs a £96 fine then all roads with yellow lines should be Route 96 as it is a conventional fine of a £16 ticket and £80 towing away fee.

We are told that the situation has got worse as lorries are now able to get into the red bus zone. It overlooks the fact that loading is only permitted on the opposite side to the red-bus traffic direction.

No mention is made of the

Tall buildings curb

From Mr Roger A. Hephner

Sir, Westminster City Council is not alone in proposing to keep future building below 12 storeys (report, later editions, March 15). Anyone familiar with the contemporary British town planning system cannot fail to be acutely aware that this is the age of the "low-rise".

Why is there such intense opposition to tall buildings? I grant they are often not appropriate in some historic environments they would jar and intrude; wrongly sited and designed they can cause strong air currents which are an inconvenience to pedestrians and experience has demonstrated that high-rise living does not suit many types of household.

But the converse is also true: a tall building (or group of buildings), well designed and well sited, can add considerably to the appeal of an urban view, and by concentrating work space in a tall building, space can be created at ground level for squares, parks and footpaths.

By all means let us be rigorously discriminating in assessing the siting and design of tall buildings, but let us not rule them out. Urban life is often grey enough, without policies designed to promote visual monotony.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. HEPPNER,
10 Stratton Street, W1.

speeding up and extra reliability of buses. No mention is made of the need to improve loading facilities and off-street parking. We should wait to see the results of the Transport and Road Research Laboratory's monitoring report which, using Streatham High Road as a control, before spreading such doom.

Your correspondent seems to have missed the point. The aim of the red routes is to improve conditions on main roads and make the most effective use of existing road space, hence he should not be surprised that his own selfish illegal parking was swiftly admonished by a traffic warden.

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND KING (Secretary),
Movement for London,
Pillar House,
194-202 Old Kent Road, SE1.

Tourism campaign

From the Chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board

Sir, Mr William Davis of the British Tourist Authority (March 19) says that Scotland has failed vigorously to support his campaign to encourage British people to holiday at home.

The "Britain's Great" campaign which starts this week is supplementary to Scotland's own "Discover Scotland" campaign which has been running in all advertising media throughout Great Britain since last December and will continue until August.

The Scottish Tourist Board, along with area and trade partners, is spending £2 million on this. In addition we will, of course, as Mr Davis should know, be buying space in the "Britain's Great" campaign and be encouraging the trade in Scotland to participate fully.

Yours faithfully,
IAN D. GRANT, Chairman,
Scottish Tourist Board,
23 Revelston Terrace,
Edinburgh 4,
March 19.

From the Chairman of the Wales Tourist Board

Sir, The Wales Tourist Board promotes holidays within the UK, year in year out, with considerable success. We are prevented by existing legislation from direct support of the British Tourist Authority overseas.

This financial year with our trade partners we have already spent £4.2 million in marketing holidays in Wales within the United Kingdom, £700,000 in the last two months. We are already working very closely with Mr Davis's staff and all the other national tourist boards to maximise the potential of the campaign for the UK as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
IFAN PRYS EDWARDS,
Wales Tourist Board,
Brunel House, 2 Fizzlan Road,
Cardiff,
March 20.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number. (071 782 5046).

Liability to injured servicemen

From Mr Jack Ashley, MP for Stoke-on-Trent South (Labour)

Sir, The injustice to ex-servicemen disabled by alleged negligence before 1986 was vividly described in your splendid report (March 18). It is ironic that these men, who helped to win compensation rights for others, are themselves denied it.

Parliament understandably does not favour retrospective legislation, particularly if it could bear harshly on individuals. But in this case, retrospective would benefit those who were damaged, and would not hurt those who injured them as it is the Ministry of Defence, not the individual, who would pay any compensation awarded.

If, however, the government remains intransigent, the alternative route to justice is to provide ex-gratia payments. This was rejected by Margaret Thatcher as prime minister, but I hope that the Gulf war will evoke a spirit of generosity towards ex-servicemen that will equal the spirit of dedication shown by those still serving.

Yours faithfully,
JACK ASHLEY,
House of Commons,
March 18.

From Mr Charles P. Reed

Sir, Your news report and editorial (March 18) on the Crown's liability towards servicemen injured by the Crown's negligence assume that the only problem is the non-retrospective effect of the 1987 amending legislation. This permits the Crown to be sued for such negligence whereas previously section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 prohibited such action.

In fact section 10 is not dead, since the 1987 Act merely suspended its operation. Under the 1987 Act the secretary of state for defence has the right to reactivate section 10 if he thinks it necessary or expedient to do so in the event of actual or impending hostilities or other warfare operations or at a time of great national danger or emergency.

One wonders whether, had the Gulf war taken a different course, the defence ministry might have seriously considered the reactivation of section 10 at some point during a more protracted conflict. The possibility of cases like Martin Ketterick taking place again cannot be ruled out.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES P. REED,
Croydon College,
Faculty of Professional and Service Studies,
Fairfield, Croydon, Surrey,
March 19.

From Mr Hugh Lawson

Sir, You report the failure of former Marine Martin Ketterick in 1980 to obtain compensation for his crippling injuries caused by alleged negligence. This is not the only case. There are a number of instances when servicemen have suffered in similar fashion.

In the 11 years since his accident Mr Ketterick has been supported by the Royal Marines Welfare Fund and other nautical and service charities, but action by the charities is in no way a substitute for official compensation.

The South Atlantic Fund and the Gulf Trust are designed to look after those who have suffered from the conflicts of the last decade, but no seafarer is excluded from asking for help. Charities may not give financial assistance where this is available from official sources but, as in this case, there are many instances where private initiative is the only resource.

Yours sincerely,
HUGH LAWSON,
(Director General),
King George's Fund for Sailors,
1 Chesham Street, SW1,
March 19.

Matters of taste

From Mr John Bratby, RA

Sir, John Russell Taylor's criticisms of my pictures (Arts, March 15) are not for me to comment on. But may I point out that I have never tried to shock — what a stupid intention — nor deliberately set out to be the controversial anti-hero.

The two toilet outhouses were not made to jar or appeal viewers, but expressed my interest in the shapes of plumbing.

As for my oils at the Albemarle Gallery, they are Expressionistic, and that has never been to English taste.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN BRATBY,
The Cupola and Tower of the Winds, Belmont Road, Hastings, East Sussex,
March 15.

Commons mix-up

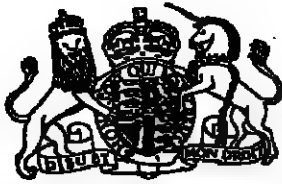
From Mr James Badenoch, QC

Sir, To "the gourmets of mixed metaphor" (Political Sketch by Matthew Parris, March 22) Mr Brian Gould's recent outpourings on the poll-tax replacement mark him as the true heir of the 18th-century Irish parliamentarian, Sir Boyle Roche. To Sir Boyle is attributed the remarkably Gouldian:

Mr Speaker, I smell a rat; I see him forming in the air and darkening the sky; but I'll nip him in the bud.

I bet Mr Gould wishes he had said that. Perhaps he will.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BADENOCH,
1 Crown Office Row,
Temple, EC4,
March 25.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 25: The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Heathrow Airport, London this evening from the Azores.

Mr Brian McGrath was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 25: The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, The Parachute Regiment, received Lieutenant-Colonel Hamish Fletcher upon relinquishing command of the 3rd Battalion and Lieutenant-Colonel Timothy Burris upon assuming the

appointment, at Highgrove, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

His Royal Highness gave a luncheon for the Lord Hanson (Chairman, Hanson Plc) at Highgrove, Tetbury, Gloucestershire.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President of the Girl Guides Association, presented a presentation to Queen's School at Kensington Palace this afternoon.

The Lady Juliet Townsend was in attendance.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00, and will visit the Legal Secretariat to the Law Officers at 9 Buckingham Gate at 4.15.

The Duchess of York will visit the Teenage Cancer Unit at the Middlesex Hospital at 2.30.

Prince Edward will attend the Tennis and Racquets Association annual dinner at The Queens Club at 7.00.

The Princess Royal will present the Weavers' Company textile prize scheme awards at "Painters' Hall" at noon, and attend a reception at Simpson (Piccadilly) at 7.15 and present the Labett Safety award.

Dinner

Sheffield and District St John Ambulance

Lord Westbury, Bailiff of Egle, was the principal speaker at a dinner given last night by Mr Michael Frampton, President of the Sheffield and District St John Ambulance Competition at the Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield, to commemorate the centenary of the presentation of the R.L. Brown Ambulance Challenge Shield. Other guests included the Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire and Mrs J. Hugh Neill, Lady Westbury, a reception given by Her Majesty's Government in Edinburgh Castle to mark the centenary of the Scottish Football League.

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OBITUARIES

MONSIGNOR MARCEL LEFEBVRE

Monsignor Marcel Lefebvre, French Roman Catholic archbishop who was excommunicated for consecrating bishops without papal approval, died in Martigny, Switzerland, yesterday aged 85. He was born on November 29, 1905.

THE excommunication of Marcel Lefebvre on June 30, 1988, was the Roman Catholic church's final sanction against a cleric whose defiance of the spirit and the letter of the Second Vatican Council had had him and his followers on a collision course with the Vatican for the previous twenty years. It came as a direct reaction to Lefebvre's consecration of four bishops for the breakaway "Fraternity of St Pius X" which he had founded in the late 1960s and whose activities had already led to the Vatican suspending him from his priestly functions. The consecrations and final excommunication followed frantic activity by the Papacy to try and heal the breach with Lefebvre who nevertheless remained steadfast in his repudiation of almost all the decrees of the Second Vatican Council, notably those tending to recognise religious liberty and freedom of conscience. That his own actions represented, to a very large degree, precisely those things, was a matter Lefebvre did address himself to. But he rationalised his position by countering that the abandonment of the traditional Tridentine mass for the vernacular and the dialogue with other churches and religions was in itself a rebellion against divine authority and therefore null and void. In a style befitting that of the schismatics of the Middle Ages he declared that the throne of St Peter had been desecrated and that the Pope was anti-Christ.

In truth he was no great theologian and his pronouncements sometimes appeared to come as much from the viscera as from a theological informed mind. Among his more extreme charges against Catholicism in the period after Vatican II were that it had become "Protestant" and "pro-communist". He was a thorn in the side of Pope Paul VI for whom he nursed considerable personal antipathy (among other things he specialised in an unsparingly accurate mimicry of the unfortunate pontiff). After Paul VI's death he was in a position to have gained some credit as the herald of a return to more conservative policies from the Vatican. After the very brief pontificate of John Paul I he was announced that he could have no quarrel with his successor, John Paul II. But this promise was short-lived. An aura of extremism clung to him, while in some respects his candour bordered perilously on naivety. For a man

who administered a greater seismic shock to the Roman Catholic church than anyone since Alfred Firmin Loisy, the modernist biblical scholar excommunicated by the conservative Pius X in 1908, Lefebvre was actually not an intellectually or morally imposing figure. He gave a strangely ineffectual impression and even when lionised by the traditionalist right in elegant Roman *salotti* his protests were judged as lacking in both style and weight by those who had not been convinced by his reputation before they met him.

He nevertheless found a following among Catholics dismayed in particular by the liturgical changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council. His movement was the one serious challenge to the Council's innovations and the only example of organized disobedience which at times came close to schism after Paul had suspended Lefebvre from his pastoral functions for defiance of instructions, the first occasion on which the punishment had been used against a bishop since the eighteenth century.

Marcel Lefebvre was born at Tournon near Lille and studied for the priesthood at the French seminary in Rome. He was ordained in September 1929 and after briefly working in a parish at Lomme he began his novitiate with the Holy Ghost Fathers. From 1932 to 1945 he was a missionary in Gabon. He taught in the seminaries of his order and was appointed bishop in September 1947 as preparation for his nomination as apostolic delegate for all black French Africa which then included 36 dioceses. In 1948 he was made Archbishop of Dakar, an office in which he remained until 1962.

He was a member of the preparatory commission for the Vatican Council and briefly served as Archbishop of Tulle before his election as Superior of the Holy Ghost Fathers. He remained only a short time in this position, resigning after the order's general assembly voted a series of reforms. He maintained at the time that "democratisation" was the work of the devil. He called his new movement the "Priestly Fraternity of St Pius X" and established its seminary, called the *Seminario Internationale St Pio X*, at Ecône near Geneva. He based his liturgical practices on the Tridentine Mass introduced by Pope Pius V, after the Council of Trent in the sixteenth century, which remained the main form of Catholic worship until the Second Vatican Council.

His candidates for the priesthood were traditional Catholics and all services were in Latin. The aim was to behave as if the Second Vatican Council had never taken place. The



Vatican riposted by ordering Lefebvre to dissolve his seminary. In October 1975 Monsignor Pierre Mamie, Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, withdrew canonical approval of it. In July 1976 Pope Paul VI suspended Lefebvre from all his priestly functions after he refused to obey an instruction to stop ordaining priests into his confraternity. Lefebvre replied by saying that his suspension applied only to using the new Mass and the new sacraments which he, in any case, did not accept. He had a certain following in the Vatican for some of his ideas, but very few followed him so far as to disobey papal instructions. He claimed to recognise papal authority but he compared his recognition with the recognition by children of the authority of their parents as long as parents did not commit or order immoral acts. If parents asked of

children things that were immoral, he said, children were not bound to obey them.

Lefebvre's position was a double irritant to Paul VI whose proud boast was that he had guided the Church through the difficult post-conciliar period without a schism. And the personal animosity between the two men only exacerbated their differences at the doctrinal level. When Lefebvre first met John Paul II on November 18, 1978, he afterwards said that he no longer had problems with the Vatican. On January 29, 1979 he ordained 30 new priests at Ecône, an act similar to that which had brought his suspension in 1976. This time there was no reaction.

But the state of truce was a fragile one. In 1983 Lefebvre retired as superior-general of the fraternity of St Pius X but this brought no cessation of his militant stance or his influence. The numbers of

adherents to the Tridentine rite continued to grow to its present 100,000 throughout the world administered to by 240 priests. Seminaries were formed in Argentina, Australia, France, Germany and the United States and there was also a considerable following in Britain, while the international seminary at Ecône had a staff of 60 resident priests. The Vatican adopted a strategy of vagueness about its intentions to those who continued to celebrate the Tridentine mass, and this appeared, for a time, to be likely to contain the schismatic tendencies of Lefebvre's movement. Lefebvre held several meetings with Vatican officials which held out the promise of recognition of his order as a church institution provided he publicly accepted Vatican II's reforms.

All these hopes of compromise were dashed in 1988 when Lefebvre announced that he would, after all, go ahead with the consecration of four bishops, a Frenchman, a Spaniard, a Swiss and a former Anglican, Richard Williamson, who was director of the Lefebvre seminary in the USA. The consecration, at Ecône, on June 30, 1988, at a five-hour mass was accompanied by defiance from Lefebvre in which he described the "sins" of Rome as being "liberalism, socialism, modernism and Zionism". Addressing his new bishops after the service he declared that "the throne of St Peter and the posts of Rome have been occupied by anti-Christ". Minutes later the Vatican confirmed that Lefebvre and the bishops were "formally schismatic" and automatically excommunicated.

Lefebvre's zeal continued unabated until his recent illness. Two years ago he had visited Britain to consecrate new churches for the society of St Pius X in Liverpool and Manchester. Cardinal Hume had already given permission for Sunday celebrations of the Tridentine mass in London, to minimise the schismatic tendencies of Lefebvre's group. But in the following year matters passed off less peacefully when his followers tried to invade a service at the cathedral of St Maclean, Pontnau, France, and to impose the Tridentine rite on a Catholic service already in progress. Police were called in to restore order after blows were struck in the cathedral nave, and vestments rumpled. The intruders eventually retreated, honour satisfied, after an agreement that they might hold their own service in a side chapel.

Subsequently Lefebvre was diagnosed as suffering from cancer and he entered hospital in Switzerland earlier this month.

SIR JOHN KERR



Sir John Robert Kerr, AK, GCMG, GCVO, PC, Governor-General of Australia from 1974 to 1977, died on March 24 aged 76. He was born on September 24, 1914.

SIR John Kerr was the fifth Australian-born governor-general and the most controversial. In November 1975 he created a precedent which caused political turmoil throughout Australia and attracted world-wide attention when he dismissed from office the Whitlam Labour administration before its full term had expired. Kerr had been confronted with a government that was no longer able to govern completely, with a prime minister who would not go to the polls, and with an opposition in the senate which declined to pass the supply (money) bill enabling the Crown to carry on the ordinary services of government.

The governor-general appointed a caretaker Liberal-Country party coalition government to carry on while a national election was organised. When it came the caretaker government, headed by Mr Malcolm Fraser, was overwhelmingly elected.

However, the hue and cry which ensued over the legality of the governor-general's actions continued for years. One result was a movement in Australia, Citizens for Democracy, which declared not only in favour of a republican form of government in place of the monarchy but pledged that the office of governor-general should be abolished.

Kerr showed personal courage in the face of a persistent, hostile, and sometimes violent, campaign against him and his office. He said: "Regardless of my personal feelings the constitution is the law and must be obeyed. I acted in accordance with section 64 of the constitution." The irony was that Kerr had Mr Whitlam's backing to become governor-general and that he had been a friend.

The son of a Sydney boilermaker, Kerr was a distinguished jurist and administrator. He was educated at Fort Street Boys' High School, Sydney, which produced such other prominent jurists as Dr H. V. Evatt, Sir Percy Spender and Sir Garfield Barwick, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia at the time of the

Thomas Blamey. During the 1940s Kerr joined the Australian Labour party but he resisted attempts by friends to persuade him to enter politics. When the Labour party split in 1956 he left it and never rejoined.

He had become a Queen's Counsel in 1953. In 1964 he was president of the Law Council of Australia, and in 1966 he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory. In the same year he became a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory and in 1972 Chief Justice of New South Wales.

His dismissal of the Whitlam administration remains controversial and divisive. The view of those who agreed with what he did was well summarised by Sir Marcus Oliphant, a distinguished scientist and sociologist, who was then governor of South Australia (1971-76): "I can find no fault in the actions of the governor-general in dismissing the federal Labour government. I believe it was democracy in action. It simply meant that in the end the people were asked what they wanted and they said what they

wanted. Democracy needs a referee when things go wrong." Kerr announced his resignation in July 1977, saying he was stepping down because of the partisan feelings aroused by his dismissal of the Whitlam government. Mr Whitlam described his dismissal as a *coup d'état*.

In February 1978 it was announced that Kerr was to be Australia's ambassador to UNESCO, based in Paris. The post was offered by Sir Malcolm Fraser, prime minister, who replaced Gough Whitlam. Kerr accepted the appointment. But three weeks later, on the day he was to have taken up his new position, he stepped down under intense public and political pressure. Mr Whitlam was later to take up the same role.

For the while, Kerr lived in England, where he wrote his version of the Whitlam controversy. In the last 10 years of his life, he became a near-recluse, living in Sydney. He leaves his second wife, Anne, whom he married in 1975, and a son and two daughters from his marriage to his first wife, Alison, who died in 1974.

Fiona MacMath

Dr Johnson, strictly speaking

PENITENCE is back in fashion. Indifference and zeal have been unexpectedly replaced by a desire for religious discipline, a strict religion. "To be strictly religious is difficult," Samuel Johnson wrote, "but we may be zealously religious at little expense."

The modern view of Lent as a time of activity seems suddenly unsatisfactory. Instead of praying we organise more prayer meetings (not the same thing at all), instead of fasting we hold hunger lunches for charity. Then there is the radio Lent course which gives the indeleible impression that ecumenism is an unpleasant duty. All seem devised to prevent us gazing into the fearful darkness of our souls.

But no longer are well-intentioned tasks a sufficient distraction. No longer are we so confident in affirming our essential goodness. Words such as evil, guilt and sin are back on the lips of our religious leaders. James Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson*, LLD was published 200 years ago. There can be no better guide to "strict religion" than his subject.

Eighteenth century religion contained many certainties. It was not an age to doubt the existence of God; though, like ours, it was sometimes slow to act on its belief. But for Johnson at least, those certainties did not lead to complacency. He was sure of God's

infinite mercy and goodness. He was even sure of his own talents and abilities. But ever more real to him were certainties about his own shortcomings and misdeeds. God was indeed merciful, but he was also a judge, and Johnson engaged himself as prosecuting counsel.

His verdict on himself was invariably harsh. His habit was to make resolutions not at new year but at Easter, and the entries in his journal at such times make sober reading.

1772: "When I review the last year, I am able to recollect so little done, that shame and sorrow, though perhaps too weakly, come upon me." (That phrase, "though perhaps too weakly", illustrates Johnson's scrupulous refusal to allow himself any credit for his penitence.)

1775: "I find that so much of my life has been slovenly and away, and that I can decry by retrospection scarcely a few single days properly and vigorously employed."

In a sermon on the urgency of penitence, it is clear whom he addressed: "Every man naturally persuades himself that he can keep his resolutions, nor is he convinced of his imbecility but by length of time and frequency of experiment."

An example of Johnson's sharp eye and keen judgment is his contention

that good deeds can be as much of a distraction as bad ones. "It is common to take advantage by pushing the favourite or convenient virtue to its utmost extent and to lose all sense of deficiency in the perpetual contemplation of some single excellence."

Elsewhere, he writes: "No sooner do we, in compliance with either the vanities or the business of life, relax our attention to the doctrines of piety, than we grow cold and indifferent, dilatory and negligent. When we are again called to our duty, we find our minds entangled with a thousand objections... and because we readily satisfy ourselves with our excuses, we are willing to imagine that we shall satisfy God."

A double portrait emerges. Through his published work and Boswell's detailed and loving biography we see the witty, formidable, clear-thinking, warm-hearted conversationalist, writer, and lexicographer. Through his sermons (written anonymously for uninspired clergy friends), his diaries and prayers, we see a man tormented by a sense of his own inadequacy, depression, illness and by a dreadful fear of death — and of what lay beyond.

We might wish the man had lived in our more merciful, tolerant age. Such despair at his failure to keep resolutions, to rise early, to attend church

we should so easily smooth away. Boswell observes that in 1771: "He is still 'trying his ways' too rigorously. He charges himself with not rising early enough; yet he mentions what was surely a sufficient excuse for this. 'One great hindrance is want of rest; my nocturnal complaints grow less troublesome towards morning; and I am tempted to repair the deficiencies of the night.' Alas! how hard would it be, if this indulgence were to be imputed to a sick man as a crime... Had he been judging of anyone else in the same circumstances, how clear would he have been on the favourable side."

Such a ruthless honesty might be insufferable, had it not been accompanied by an equally rigorous refusal to judge others. Boswell provides many examples of Johnson's exceptional tolerance and love of his fellow men and women. His humility, humanity and generosity never failed to surprise those who knew him best.

And so today. But it is his readiness to peer into the abyss, not unafraid but undaunted, that provides us with an unexpected champion, an unlikely flame for this dark age.

Fiona MacMath is the author of *The Faith of Samuel Johnson*, Mowbrays £5.95.

Memorial service

His Honour Sir Carl Aarvold (A service of thanksgiving for His Honour Sir Carl Aarvold was held yesterday at St Michael's, Mickleham, near Dorking, Surrey. The Rev Peter R. Isaac officiated.)

Mr Christopher Aarvold, son, read the lesson, Mr James Aarvold, son, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland and Mr John Aarvold, son, read a prayer. His Honour Sir James Miskin, QC, gave an address.

Lecture
Royal Society
Professor C.N.R. Rao, Director of the Indian Institute of Science, delivered the Blackett Memorial lecture yesterday at the Royal Society. Professor Sir Anthony Epstein, foreign secretary and vice-president of the society presided and was host at a dinner held afterwards in honour of Professor Rao. Sir Robert Honeycombe, Dr N

Applying French polish for a stylish connection



Twenty years of designing soft, practical clothes, first for French Connection, and now under her own label, have

brought Nicole Farhi (above) a British Design Award. Liz Smith reports

There is something about the citation for design excellence accompanying her British Design Award (presented by the Design Council last week) that particularly pleases Nicole Farhi.

The French-born fashion designer has already received two acknowledgements of her work from the industry — a British Fashion Council award in 1989 (for British classics), and a nomination for another BFC award last year. But the fact that her clothes have been measured as "products", not fashion, in the hard-nosed consumer business, and judged on their "value for money and commercial performance", gives her the added satisfaction of seeing her whole design ethos vindicated.

She is the first fashion designer to win a British Design Award in four years (the last was the knitwear specialist, Sarah Dallas). "It touches me a lot," Ms Farhi says. "I always try to make clothes that women want to wear, and not just fashion ideas to play around with."

She has been applying her innate French chic to producing practical yet immensely stylish clothes for the past 20 years. Trained at the Ecole Beccot in Paris, she was working at Pierre d'Alby in 1973 when Stephen Marks, the British agent for the d'Alby collection at the time, whisked her to London to design exclusively for him. For ten years she worked anonymously, creating his French Connection ranges for women and men, as well as his upmarket, more tailored Ste-

phen Marks line. Her sketches, converted by factories in Hong Kong, New Delhi or Newcastle into clothes with a strong, understated style, became the basics of a fashionable wardrobe that sold around the world.

In the designer-conscious Eighties, when every store transformed itself into shopping malls of designer boutiques, Ms Farhi stepped out from her backstage role and into the limelight. In 1983 a Nicole Farhi shop, carrying an exclusive own-label line separate from French Connection, opened in Harvey Nichols in London. By the time the first Nicole Farhi shop opened in London's St Christopher's Place, the demand from retailers and customers for her own-label clothes was so great that the Stephen Marks collection was renamed Nicole Farhi.

"Everything changed the day I had my name on the label," she says.

"Stephen gave me carte blanche to create what I want. When we started French Connection I was young and designed the sort of clothes I enjoyed wearing. But I had always felt I was hiding behind the Stephen Marks label. It existed already and I stepped in to create more tailored suits and coats for a different customer, who was not me. Now I design the soft, easy styles in lovely fabrics that I want for myself."

Two assistants work with her on the Nicole Farhi ranges for men and women, and the Nicole Farhi Division line of sport separates launched in 1988. Many of her preliminary sketches are done at



weekends in the conservatory at her home in Hampstead, London, where she lives with her 15-year-old daughter, Candice. Five years ago she took up sculpture.

"There is no connection between my clothes designs and sculpture. It is just part of my personal development and self-discovery," she says.

She remains a major shareholder in French Connection since its flotation on the Stock

Exchange in 1983. The group has a £60 million turnover worldwide. In 1989, when the Nicole Farhi men's collection was launched, she handed over the designing of French Connection ranges (womenswear, menswear, denim jeans and knitwear, Great Plains colourful separates, and the more expensive and sportier Future Classics) to a team of five designers, all working in the

same studio in Bow, east London. "I can look over their shoulders, and it is all done with the same design philosophy," she says.

As well as the in-store shops in Harvey Nichols and Selfridges, there are now Nicole Farhi shops in London (St Christopher's Place, W1; Sloane Street, SW1; Covent Garden, WC2; and Hampstead, NW3), Oslo, Tokyo and New York. The collections

also sell well in stores across Europe, the United States and the Far East.

"Creating the Nicole Farhi collection was as exciting as starting all over again," she says. "I buy for our shops and it is a good lesson in design. It teaches me how to edit the collection and fill in the gaps."

Knitwear has become an important part of the Nicole Farhi range, for example. There is one white silk shirt in

the collection, in a washed silk, that she has made, and worn, for five years. The basic blue jeans in her Division collection, perfectly cut with narrow legs and an easy, low-waisted fit are constant top-sellers with customers, as well as being the basis of her own favourite uniform, worn with a T-shirt and loose jacket.

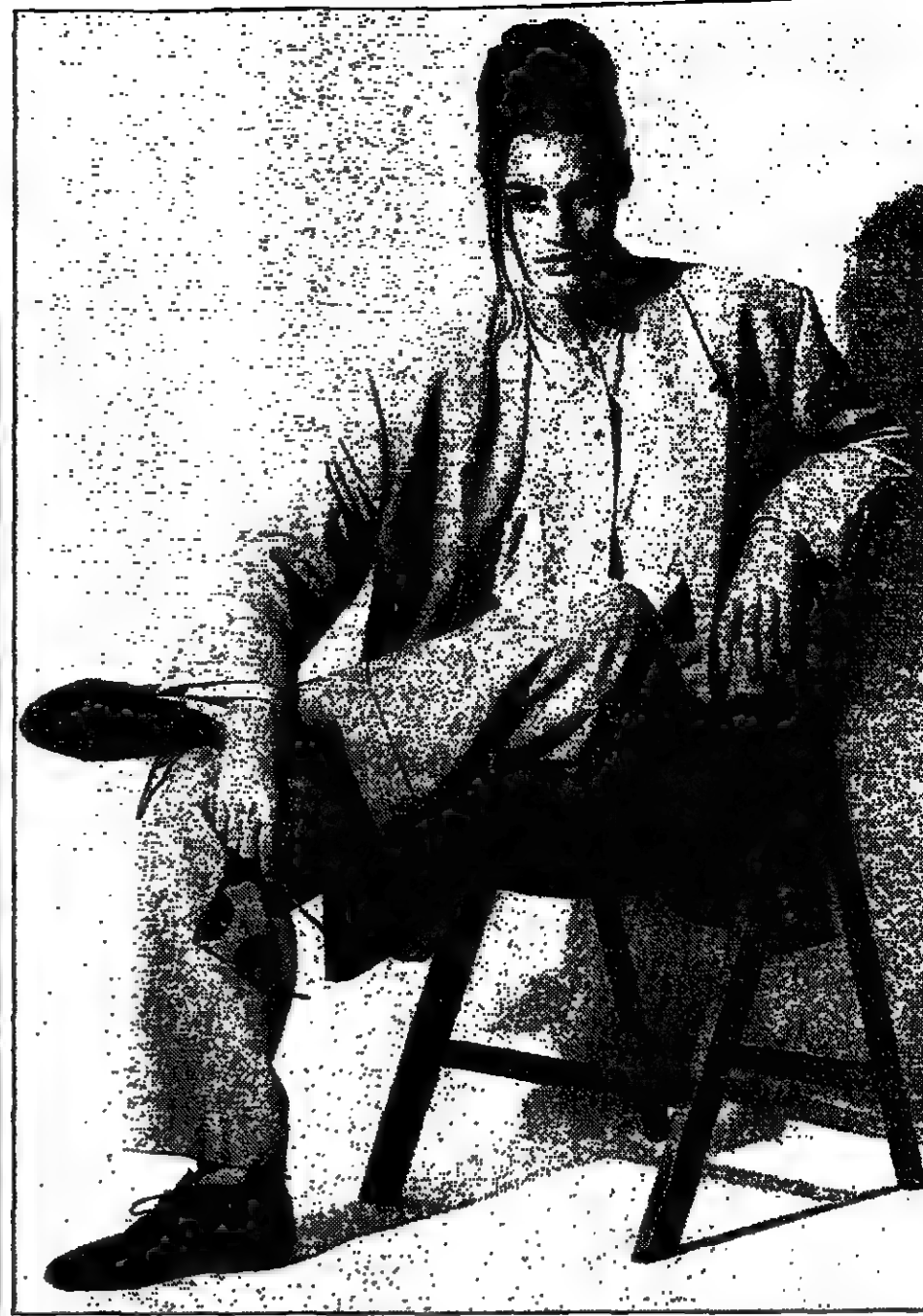
Her taste for simply styled clothes in sumptuous fabrics which, expensive or not, give value for money is shared by her customers. Sales of Nicole Farhi collections were up by 30 per cent last year, and even in a recession her clothes continue to sell. A short trenchcoat in pearly-de-pêche costs £400; a textured jacket (£285) and matching trousers (£190) in a cotton/wool mix are teamed with a silk shirt (£134). Snede bomber jackets

(£425) match linen trousers (£134). There are little tops to go under suits in fine wool crepe or gabardine, wonderfully textured sweaters, and washed or embossed silk shirts. Evening clothes are as understated in design as her daywear, but in more luxurious fabrics. Colours are always muted and there are always the good-looking neutrals — navy, black and white.

"My taste has never been fussy, but today I want clothes that are even more simple," she says. "I put a lot of work into the fit as well as the choice of fabric and colour. I try everything on myself. The same philosophy applies to menswear. I give them simple shapes in softer fabrics. At the end of the day the look changes little."

'Everything changed the day I had my name on the label'

Easy going: left, Nicole Farhi's beige trenchcoat; above, grey textured suit and silk shirt



INDEX-LINKED Savings Certificates

Holding limits for 5th Issue

New limit of £10,000

Beginning on 21 March 1991 the £5,000 holding limit for Index-linked 5th Issue Savings Certificates is doubled to £10,000.

Reinvestment Limit

There is no change in the (additional) reinvestment holding limit of £10,000.

NATIONAL SAVINGS

Issued by the Department for National Savings on behalf of the Treasury

Exceedingly good in parts?

Never mind the chocolate quality, feel the cardboard width on an Easter egg

EASTER eggs started life as models of neat and natural packaging: eggs with painted shells. Now they are money-spinners for the chocolate companies, a playground for packaging, and a design consultant's nightmare.

Sales of Easter eggs are worth £175 million a year. How much of that is for what you eat and how much for the wrapping, nobody will tell, but chocolate bought as Easter eggs costs three times as much as in ordinary bars. "The wrapping is pure anarchy," says Fiona Gilmore, the managing director of the design consultants Lewis Moberly.

"It seems the chocolate makers insist all year that everything in their presentation is consistent with their brand image, then at Easter they say, 'Forget about brand values. Let's have fun.'"

Lewis Moberly has a £3 million turnover and its designs are on the shelves of every supermarket. It is responsible for Asda's image-enhancing wine labels and the look of Cadbury's Milk Tray, but has never yet been asked to design an Easter egg pack.

"From the look of it," says Mark Pearce, the design director, gloomily surveying a selection of Easter eggs, "I hardly think any design consultancy has. It's a shame, because eggs offer wonderful opportunities. They are simply wasted in all these structure-led designs which look as if they have been thrown together by cartoon makers eager to use as much cardboard as they can. It is as if the picture frame has got more and more ornate, so that you only see the frame and nothing of the picture."

Mr Pearce picked up a Smarties 100g egg in its cardboard sheath. "This is among the better ones," he said. The pack featured a cartoon whale spouting chocolate buttons. "Children like characters, but

I don't know what a whale has to do with Easter."

Smarties scored better with a three-pack of Egg Heads, with cartoon character faces on wrapping foil (99p for 99p), held together in a card sleeve. "Very neat, very minimal," Mr Pearce said. "They have been subject to price constraints for the lower end of the market, and it has helped."

Miss Gilmore liked a Milkia Easter bunny wrapped in lilac foil and sporting a green bow tie. "It stands out on the shelves at Tesco because, unlike the others, it isn't in a box," she said.

"As a result you actually get 200g of chocolate. Usually the more cardboard, the thinner the chocolate shell."

Marks & Spencer has co-opted the Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles for its best-seller — a foil-wrapped egg sitting in what the box describes as "an awesome ceramic mug". Miss Gilmore did wonder if "a lot of mothers would buy anything rather than let more turtles into the house."

Cathy Lanson, Lewis Moberly's director of packaging technology, found some almost original Easter eggs at Selfridges selling for £1.60 — real egg shells painted in bright colours and packed with 60g of chocolate praline. They are individually wrapped in recycled paper, and if you buy six they are put into a standard egg carton with a plain printed explanatory label.

"It is creating a use for recycled paper," Miss Lanson said, "but perhaps the carton should be reconsidered." We cracked the shells. Blue, green and yellow paint came off on our fingers. "Well, there is an opportunity for product improvement there," Miss Gilmore said quietly. It summed up the meeting's general feeling.

ROBIN YOUNG

Gianni Versace

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T08

In 1951 Mercedes-Benz patented an invention so important to motoring safety that it was more than merely another competitive advantage. It was literally a life-preserving breakthrough - the rigid passenger safety cell protected front and rear by energy-absorbing crumple zones.

So radical an advance was it that Mercedes-Benz decided it would be socially irresponsible to keep the concept to themselves. It was an idea too good not to share. So, in subsequent years, as other car makers gradually absorbed the lessons of such ground-breaking research, Mercedes-Benz did not once enforce their patent rights. As a result, the motoring world has become a safer place.

SAFETY CELL NOW FUNDAMENTAL TO CAR DESIGN

Today the steel safety cell is an almost universally copied concept. But, just as Mercedes-Benz were the only manufacturers in the world with the depth of engineering experience needed to invent the safety cell, so they retain their edge today by conducting the most exhaustive crash-testing programme there is.

Copying a principle is one thing. Fully exploiting its potential is quite another. And Mercedes-Benz are ideally placed to know how well they stand in the safety stakes because they crash test competitors' products as well as their own.

Back in the early '50s, however, only one production car, the Mercedes 180, used the rigid passenger capsule. This was a quantum leap by the company that among other things, had also given the volume production car its first independent front suspension, its first anti-lock brakes, its first impact absorbing air-bag, and was among the first to introduce seat belts and

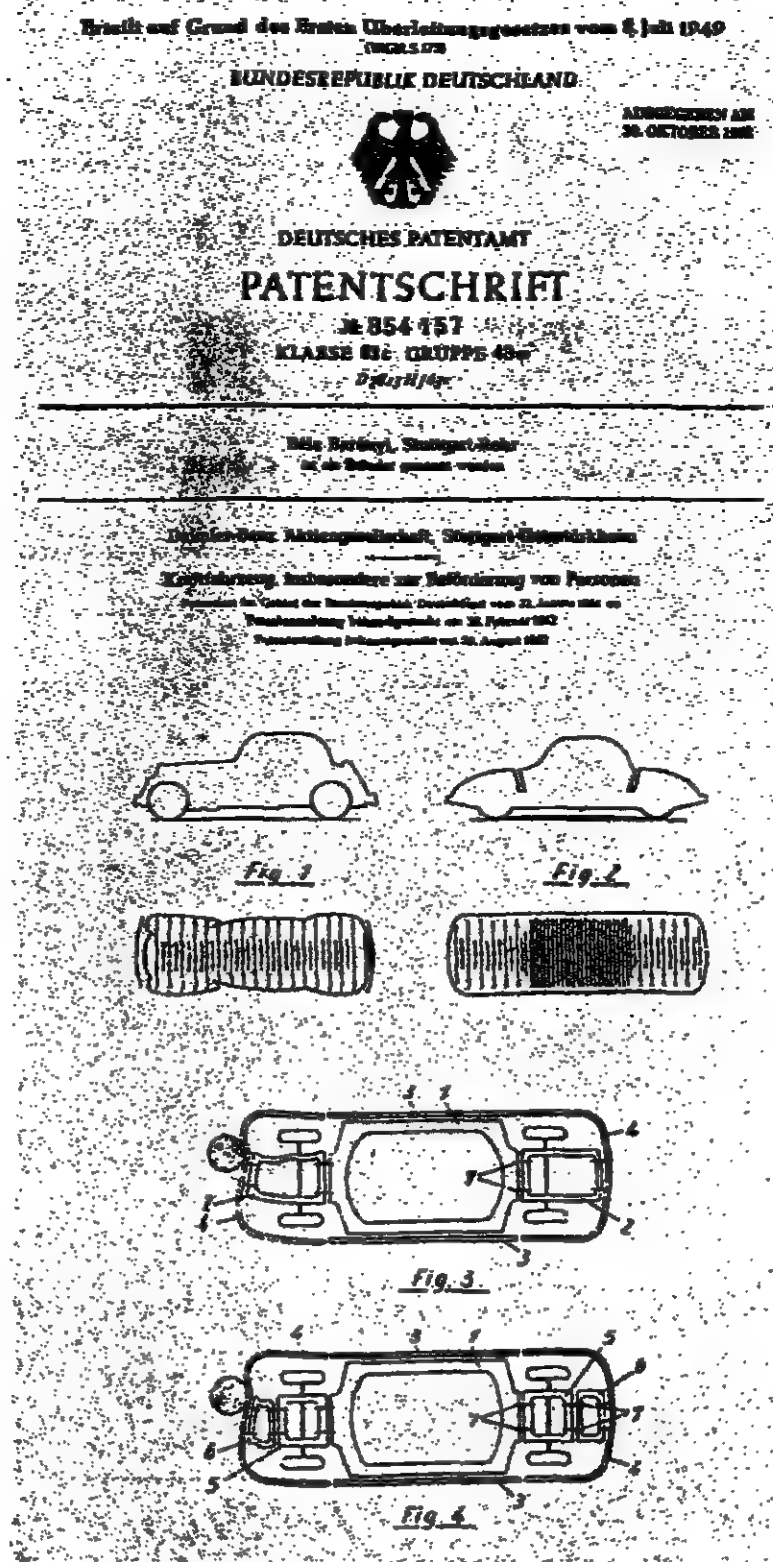
the collapsible steering column. An inventory of safety engineering that is without peer.

REWRITING THE SAFETY RULES

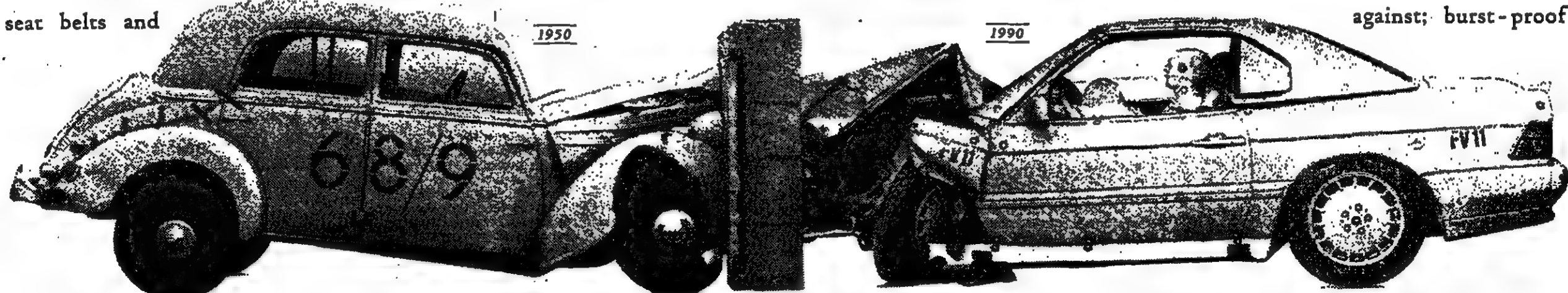
These days, Mercedes-Benz conduct crash tests every week. And today, as they have since 1951, Mercedes-Benz demand more of themselves than is ever imposed by the safety legislation of any government.

For example, Mercedes-Benz crash test cars for both the 25% and 40% off-set frontal collisions that their research shows are the most common types of head-on accident. Government statute calls for only 100% head-on collision testing, so that is the route the car-making herd follow. But the stresses of all three types of impact are allowed for in every car body built by Mercedes-Benz.

The result is a range of cars, from the 190 series



An idea too good not to share



to the new SL sports car, that are uniquely well-equipped to reduce the risk of serious injury in a major accident. No car maker crash tested their cars at all until Mercedes-Benz showed them the value of such a programme. And where Mercedes-Benz led, again the world eventually followed.

Gradually the full safety jigsaw came together as Mercedes-Benz took the next logical step - improving in-cabin protection. Seat belts, for example, were offered as early as the late '50s.

Then, in 1959, as the crash-testing programme taught ergonomic engineers its invaluable lessons, the Mercedes-Benz 220 became the first car equipped with an interior designed to help protect unrestrained occupants during an accident.

New features included a large, padded steering wheel boss; a padded, yielding instrument panel; padded sun visors, window trim and arm-rests; and recessed door handles. And this, remember, was all more than 30 years ago.

COMPREHENSIVE COLLISION TESTING

During the '60s and '70s, Mercedes-Benz consolidated their pioneering role in safety engineering. The company was directly involved in developing a lateral roll-over test now used throughout the world. Today, rear-end, side-impact and roof-drop testing are also central to the Mercedes-Benz programme.

Take side-impact testing. Countless experiments have proven to Mercedes-Benz that car doors must combine two essential properties: great impact-absorbing strength that also spreads the protective effort across the even stronger side pillars, floor sills and roof that they must be braced against; burst-proof

locks that can nevertheless be easily opened from both inside or outside after a major collision.

THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO DISCOVER

In the 1990s, Mercedes-Benz are pushing as determinedly as ever at the frontiers of safety research. With many hundreds of important patents to their name in safety alone, they continue to add to a storehouse of knowledge that has been garnered, usually in a pioneering role, over the past 60 years.

That rigid safety cell was a pinnacle in a continuous unrivalled record that began with the introduction of independent front suspension to volume cars in 1931, a measure that made them more predictable and sure-footed vehicles to drive. Yet one more idea that was too good not to share.



ENGINEERED LIKE NO OTHER CAR
IN THE WORLD

THEATRE

More to life than sportin'

Damon Evans, Sportin' Life in Glyndebourne's *Porgy and Bess* and now Joe in *Carmen Jones*, talks to Clive Davis

There are places where the American tenor Damon Evans is recognised in the streets. It happens frequently in his native United States, but strangers have also stopped him as far afield as Italy and the Soviet Union.

Few singers of the non-pop or non-Pavarotti variety could make a similar claim. But then, few have enjoyed a previous existence as an actor in a highly successful American television comedy series. Damon Evans can claim that distinction. The show was *The Jeffersons*, a precursor to *The Cosby Show*. Evans made his last appearance in the programme 12 years ago, yet people still remember him by his character's name: Lionel.

Britain was one of the few countries that remained immune to *Jeffersons* mania. His reputation here rests on his achievements in classical music, and in particular on his dazzling performance as Sportin' Life in the Trevor Nunn/Simon Rattle production of Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* at Glyndebourne in 1986. Now he takes on a new challenge: a West End production of *Carmen Jones*, in which he shares the lead role of Joe with Michael Austin.

Set in the Deep South, Oscar Hammerstein's reworking of Bizet's opera has taken almost half a century to reach the West End. The first Broadway production opened in 1943, received ecstatic reviews, and ran for 503 performances. Eleven years later, Otto Preminger released his brash film version, with Dorothy Dandridge in the title role and Harry Belafonte as the updated Don José.

Thanks to screenings on television, the film has become the authorised version, almost by default. Damon Evans is among those who have never seen a stage production. As a child in Baltimore he saw the film time and again. "I grew up on it. My mother took me, my father took me. Last summer, when I knew I was being considered for Joe, I decided to see it again. I was sceptical when I went in; I didn't think

it would work. But it did. It wasn't a period piece."

Black intellectuals have had harsh words for the Preminger film. James Baldwin, for one, mauled it in *Commentary*. "The fact that one is watching a Negro cast interpreting *Carmen* is used to justify their remarkable vacuity, their complete improbability, their total divorce from anything suggestive of the realities of Negro life."

Evans is confident that stereotypes will be avoided at the Old Vic. One joke circulating among the cast, he says, is that the director, Simon Callow, knows more about black history than the rest of them put together. He also stresses that Hammerstein's original story-line gave a broader picture of black life. "There's a middle-class, country-club element which is totally mis-

material - the novel by DuBose Heyward - and he took a purely humanistic approach. He treated the characters as human beings."

The controversy over the Broadway production of *Mix Saigon* is another subject that rouses Evans's passions. He believes that the future over the casting of Jonathan Pryce was misreported on both sides of the Atlantic. "I feel divided about the whole thing. As a black performer, I don't want anyone to tell me I can't play a part on the grounds of my race. Jonathan Pryce has as much right to play an Asian as I do: in fact I recently played Goro in *Madam Butterfly* in Canada. But there is so much history behind this. The minority members of Equity had been unhappy for some time that they hadn't been properly assimilated into American casting policies. The press never really reported on the background. They made it sound like it was just a case of Americans versus Brits."

For Evans, typecasting is a particular concern, partly for the obvious reason of his colour, partly because he has had to overcome a bias against classical performers who have not come up through the conventional channels. Although he showed an early interest in opera - he formed his own neighbourhood company at the age of 17 - he was working on Broadway by the time he was 19. But after several years of steady work in musicals, he found the parts began to dry up. "People kept telling me I sang too well" - and he enrolled at music school.

At the end of his first year, alone came an offer from CBS, the network which made *The Jeffersons*. Evans took it, not knowing that he would stay with the show for three seasons. An even bigger role followed when he played the author Alex Haley in *Roots: The Next Generation*. He had inadvertently become a Hollywood actor. Then he decided that his ambitions lay elsewhere. He returned to New York and set about building a career as a tenor.

"I didn't work for about three years," he recalls. "I was in no condition to. Luckily, I had residuals coming in." Winning a place to study opera at the Juilliard in 1984 should have boosted his confidence, but it seemed to have the opposite effect. The message, he feels, was that a former television actor had no chance of success in opera. At this point he heard about auditions for Sportin' Life at Glyndebourne. He returned to this country in 1989, representing the United States at the "WNO/BBC

Singer of the World" competition in Cardiff. He still regards Britain as the country where he was first taken seriously as an artist. "In America they only remember the sitcom. It can be a very snobbish business. Every time I walk through the airport here, I want to hug the people when they stamp my work permit." One of his main objectives now is to ditch Sportin' Life before he becomes too closely identified with him. His last scheduled performance in the role is at Covent Garden in the 1992/93 season. He has even turned down an offer of the

part from the New York Met. "People forget that I made my debut here with the LSO. They think it was Glyndebourne, in a role that is normally associated with song and dance men. I think there are roles in the traditional repertoire that black artists should be playing. For instance, I would like to play Peter Grimes. It wouldn't change the story, but it would add a whole new dimension."



Damon Evans: from television comedy player to operatic principal and musical star

RADIO

Campaign tales and chitchatting

In Claude Chebrol's film masterpiece, *Que La Bête Meure*, the young prospective parricide is told by his Greek tutor that every death in Homer is particularised, that every character gets his own special dispatch. This was the chief Homeric element that Christopher Logue celebrated in his *War Music* of ten years ago, a free account of Books 16 to 19 of the *Iliad*, in which close-ups of ultraviolence created a zesty, flicker-book effect.

I have not seen the text of his latest commission, *Kings* (Radio 3, Sunday) but anybody could have told him in advance that in taking on Books 1 and 2 he would find himself strapped for gore. To be sure, the narrative features a public censure, but true fans of radio nasties will largely have experienced the frustration of the Achaean troops sitting in their tedious tents while the big shots argued: Agamemnon being kingly and Achilles acting like a complete drama-queen.

Logue's method, famously, is to absorb Chapman, Pope and company and then produce his own,ardonically flavoured version of events in which anachronisms play the role of court jester. All wars are the same in essence, and references to Gallipoli and Hiroshima seemed not out of place, but an intrusive parenthesis concerning the poet and his friend on a balcony in Skopje might well have landed him in the wrong corner of *Private Eye*.

The rest of the work was the mixture as before, with delicately cinematic shifts of focus, extravagantly camp metaphors and enough "sardonic wine" to launch a fleet. And once again the admirable Alan Howard did all the voices, from Thetis to Sutor, like a one-man rep company.

Listeners equipped with headphones will have noticed that the dream sent by Zeus to persuade Agamemnon to renew the assault on Troy began its mischief in the sleeper's right ear, migrated to the left and then returned, a wandering spirit indeed. The whole production was like this: detailed, exact and apposite.

Acute ear-power was not necessary to detect, in *Start The Week* (Radio 4, Monday), the rustling of paper, although one could not tell whether this derived from handwritten notes or a cast list of Sidney Lumet's last film, or even the

hardback edition of Thomas Kenally's new novel, Melvyn Bragg, sounding as though he had swallowed an extra-soporic dose of adenoid media. A conversation that began as a consideration of the modern rise of fundamentalism, but swiftly deteriorated into book - and film - chat.

Kenally demonstrated his acquaintance with the techniques of hijacking by attempting to hijack the programme itself. Lumet was better value by far, speaking of a society (the now dis-United States) in which primary schools have installed metal detectors to weed out the handbags before they get to the classrooms. Even the Jewish humanitarianism on which he was weaned has fallen victim to barking religious mania. "The melting pot has not melted," he observed. Tribalism, intolerance, interracial violence: it is not a world away from Homer.

Warfare by other means continued in *The Monday Play* (Radio 4, yesterday). *The Rabbit Hunt* was Mike Walker's beguiling account of an adolescent Irish patriot's progressive disillusionment, in the Thirties, with the nature of nationalism and the eternal argument between means and ends. "It all depends on who has the right words," declared a representative of the adult world. "The lads" were due back from the civil war in Spain, and the sky was brimming with skylarks, and Irish heads were full of Cagney and Edward G. Robinson. Elizabeth Parkinson's "radio-phonetic" music was the best since *Arthur - the King*. This was a joint production between RTE and the BBC; perhaps things are looking up.

MARTIN CROPPER



Christopher Logue: gore-free

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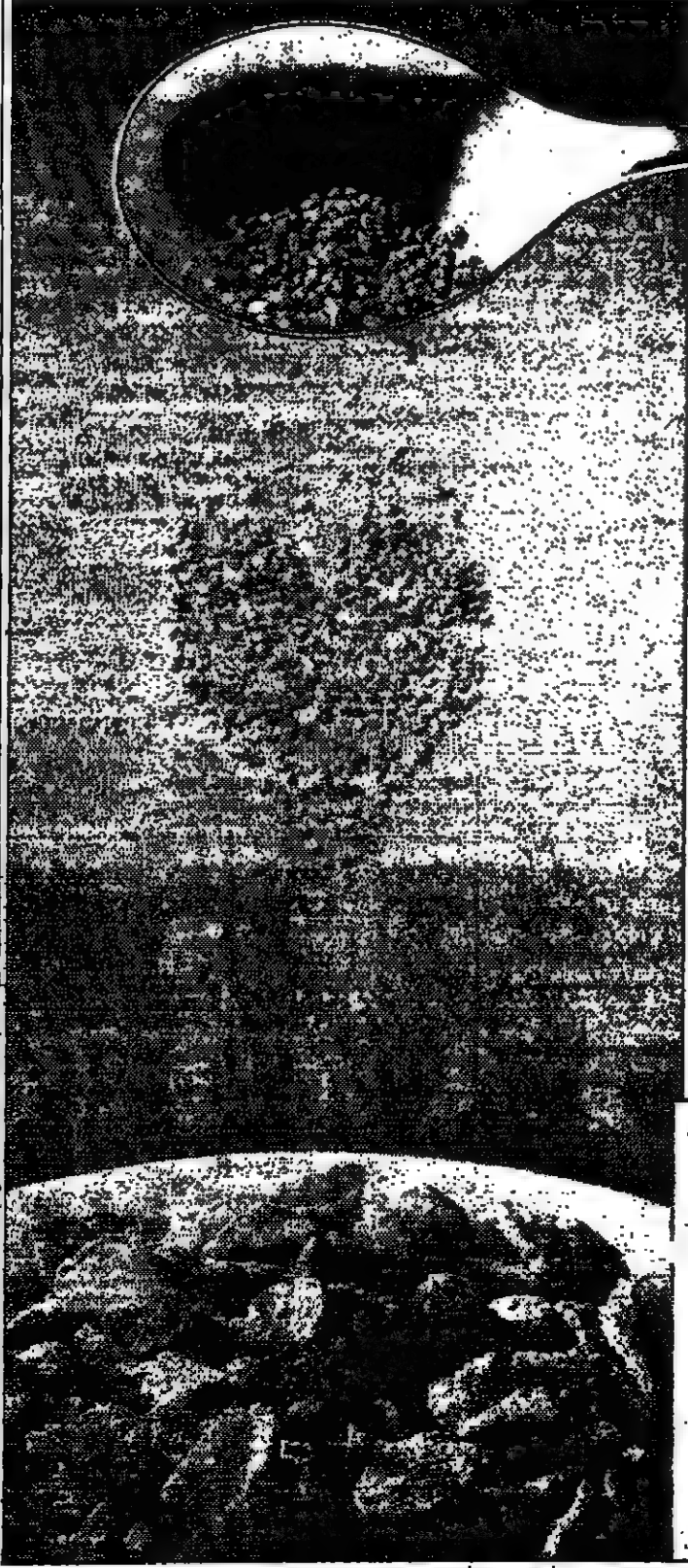
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Orkney case children to stay under safety orders

By KERRY GILL

THE nine Orkney children, who were seized by social workers last month after allegations of ritual sexual abuse, were neither physically nor sexually abused, according to medical evidence produced at a children's hearing yesterday.

Hitch in Heathrow slots fight

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE battle over the allocation of slots at Heathrow airport took a new, and potentially chaotic, twist last night when United Airlines were told they could not take over Pan Am's operations.

Heathrow's scheduling committee suspended an earlier decision to transfer Pan Am's slots to United following complaints from Virgin Atlantic that to do so would have been technically in breach of regulations.

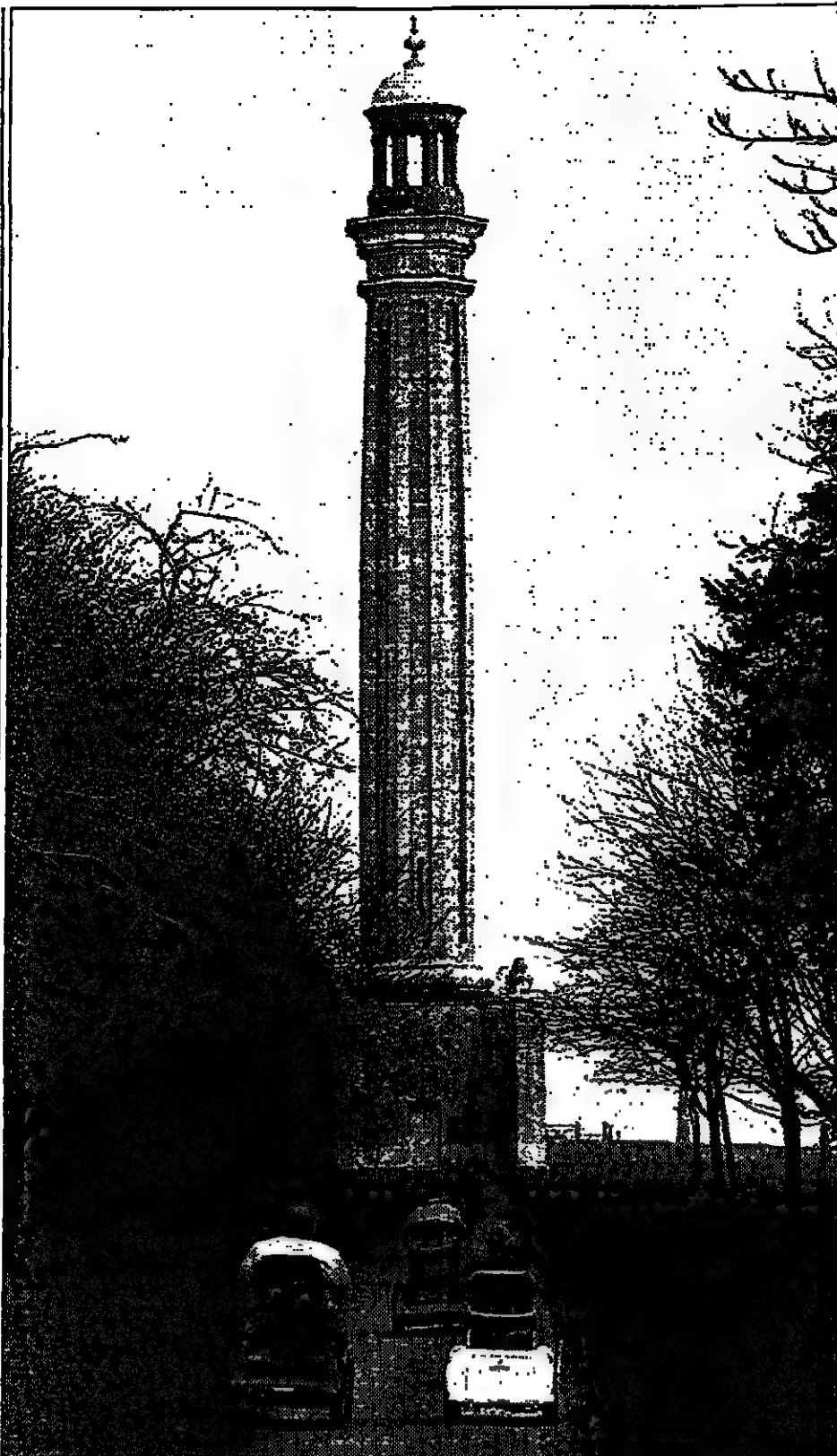
Richard Branson, chairman of Virgin, said last night: "We had an agreement that there would be two British airlines and two American carriers flying in direct and equal competition across the Atlantic from Heathrow."

the panel said the circumstances had not changed since the last meeting. Edward Targowski, QC, for one of the families, said: "Medical examinations have revealed that there is no physical evidence consistent with sexual or physical abuse. There is a total lack of evidence." He argued that the circumstances had changed.

Gordon Sloan, acting reporter to the panel, immediately told the hearing that the medical evidence had been given to counsel on the understanding that it would not be disclosed at this stage. Mr Sloan said: "I am not prepared to discuss evidence at the hearing. That is a matter for the court." However, he added that while medical evidence did not show signs of physical or sexual abuse they did not indicate whether the children had taken part in "simulated sexual intercourse" or had been subjected to "moral danger".

Earlier in the hearing, Ron Clancy, for another family, said his clients' children had not shown any signs of physical or sexual abuse either. He said a Sunday newspaper report, that quoted Orkney council's press officer as stating that the children had been abused, had caused great distress. Nick Clayton, the press officer, claimed that he had been misquoted.

The panel said they had decided to err on the side of caution and keep the children in care until the allegations were put to a sheriff next month.



Trust said: disabled people driving battery-driven cars, provided free by the National Trust, view Capability Brown's Cobham Monument in Stowe landscape gardens

Price of a local phone call falls

By DAVID YOUNG

THE price of a local phone call will fall by 4.5 per cent after Easter and tighter price controls on British Telecom, which will lead to further cuts in charges by 6.25 per cent, will begin operating on August 1, Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, said yesterday. Trunk call charges will fall by 7.3 per cent from April 2 and in June, BT expects to cut the cost of international calls by 10 per cent.

The price reductions are part of a "rolling programme", after the government's decision to scrap BT's and Mercury's duopoly on telecommunications. Mr Lilley told the Commons. He said: "As the rate of inflation falls over the coming months, I expect that BT's charges will not only fall in real terms but in absolute terms as well. This is excellent news for the consumer."

Mr Lilley said that further steps, to increase choice for telecommunications users unveiled yesterday, will confirm Britain's position at the forefront of satellite operations in Europe and provide much liberalisation for the business sector.

As a result, companies may install telecommunications networks for their own use without needing a separate licence, and a licence will enable anyone to offer two-way telecommunications services by satellite where it does not involve a connection to the public switched network.

A recent survey by National Utility Services showed that while BT is competitive in the trunk and overseas markets consumers are at a disadvantage when calling locally.

Leading article, page 13

Political sketch

Sudden attack by a placid cat

AS parliament gathered yesterday *The Independent's* (entirely serious) astronomer's guide to the sky at night warned: "Two other sky-sights to look out for this month involve space debris... You should expect to see more shooting stars than usual, as Earth ploughs through a cloud of debris deposited by Comet Thatcher."

But there was only Harry Greenway (C, Ealing N). One cannot but admire Mr Greenway, who is currently bailed on charges of corruption involving British Rail contracts. Yesterday, he told the House that he dislikes the flavour of the glue you have to lick on House of Commons envelopes. He suggested that peppermint might make a more attractive flavour. Answering him, John MacGregor, the Leader of the House, wondered light-heartedly whether rice pudding might make a refreshing change. Nobody suggested porridge.

All this occurred after a strange apparent attack on the chairman of the Tory party, Chris Patten, by one of his own side: the tall, quiet, serious, Sir Michael Neuberger (C, Romford), the minister of state.

When *Roth's Parliamentary Profiles* is reduced to telling us that a man wears spectacles and plays the oboe, it is a sign that little else comes to mind. Sir Michael strikes most of us as a calm, intelligent behind-the-scenes man: a convinced Thatcherite, but not a troublemaker. Chris Patten, for his part, is thought to be somewhat on the left of the party but generally charms his critics with a sort of jokey affability.

So when, unprovoked, Sir Michael Neuberger leapt up yesterday afternoon, quoted a Sunday newspaper's charge that Mr Patten would "be far to visit the social market than Romford market," and

asked Mr Patten to answer, it was like one of those embarrassing moments when an exceptionally placid domestic cat suddenly flies for the leg of an important visitor and sinks its teeth in. "Ooh I am sorry!" I felt like calling down to Mr Patten from the press gallery, "He's never done anything like that before."

Mr Patten looked unsure (like the rest of us) whether it was intended kindly. He smiled a touch ruefully, listed a handful of the government's achievements, and sat down. Moments later he proceeded to tell Dame Elaine Kellett-Bowman (C, Lancaster) that he had been "looking forward for years" to visiting her constituency: a visit which was to be "the highlight of my autumn".

I do not know whether Mr Patten is the kind of chap who kicks pigeons, but if I had been a pigeon in his path as he walked home after work last night, I should have hopped quickly aside.

Shortly afterwards, debate was resumed between the front-bench heavyweights. The industry secretary, Peter Lilley, was spatterer than usual, describing Labour's various policy proposals as "never knowingly underhanded". Roy Hattersley (never knowingly underhanded) was not present to bear this, but Gordon Brown waited in his corner of the ring, jaw working, poised for the attack. Labour's industry shadow is never knowingly under-punched.

True to form yesterday, Mr Brown came out, fists flying. But then he always does. Sometimes his lower jaw seems jammed in "jazz" mode. His speeches are a sort of animated shopping list: a pucky thing, point by point, of awful things you didn't know about the government's record.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Trollope's niche is booked in the abbey's corner

By WILLIAM CASH



Mortimer: agitation and letters get things done

RICHARD Mortimer, keeper of monuments at Westminster Abbey, said yesterday that Trollope was now "odd-on" to join Chaucer, Shakespeare and Dickens on Britain's roll of literary fame in Poets' Corner.

"It is odd that such a major figure as Trollope is not already there, particularly as he was so devoted to the church," he said.

Following a letter of support to the Trollope Society from John Major - who is a joint

member with his wife, Norma - an internal memorandum concerning the famous niche is understood to be circulating around the abbey's cloisters of power. "It can't do any harm having the prime minister on your side," Dr Mortimer said.

Historically, applications to join the club have always been helped by an influential proposer. Ben Jonson was put up by the Earl of Oxford; Shakespeare by Pope, Burlington et al. "Today it is public petitions - as for Dylan Thomas - letters to *The Times*, and agitation within the great and

the good that sway things," said Dr Mortimer.

The final decision will lie with Michael Mayne, Dean of Westminster, who has thought of turning the plain window in the south transept into a stained-glass memorial for 30 literary notables. If the dean can find the funds required, Trollope is likely to be the first to have the laurels of immortality bestowed upon him.

The Trollope Society was founded in 1987 by Lord Reese-Mogg, who said that he would gladly use a crow bar to remove undeserving writers

from the corner, such as D H Lawrence, to give space to Trollope. "He's obviously one of the major English novelists and in some ways the most English of them all. In terms of portraying the national culture and character he is closer than any of them. If you listed ten English novelists you would have to put his name in." He believes that Trollope deserves a place because his popularity has grown over the years, unlike some of the other names who are now forgotten.

Evergreen here: The mem-

bers of the Trollope Society dined in the Reform Club last night to celebrate their hero, and to demonstrate after more than a century that of all the needs a book has, the chief need is still that it be readable (Philip Howard writes).

Trollope did not really approve of women, as he put it, "getting up on their legs". But he would have cheered for Victoria Glendinning, who is finishing a biography of him. She spoke about the naming of names, and the revolution in nomenclature since the 19th century.

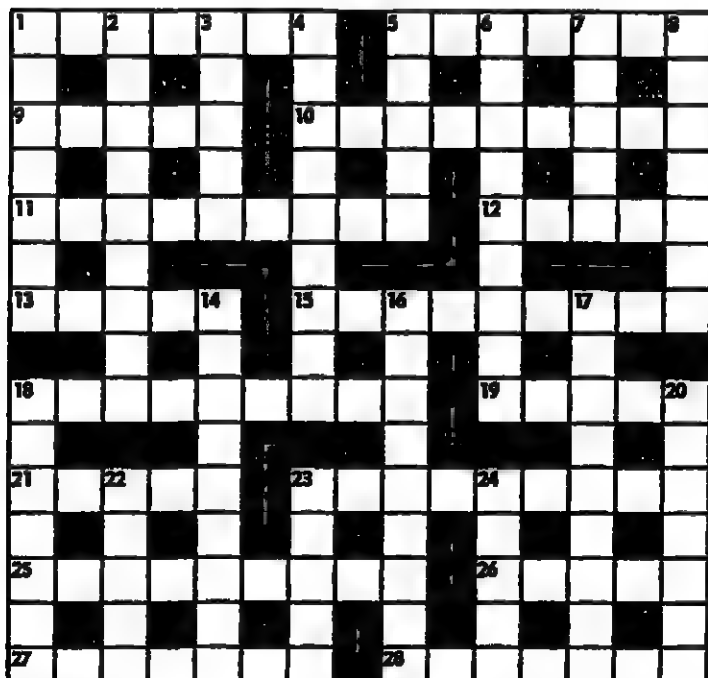
TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

Daily vs Elaine Showalter is unsurprised by our troubled times, by the increasing divorce rate, "virgin" birth, AIDS and homophobia. The American feminist has seen all this "sexual anarchy" before - in her reading of the novels, and her study of the mores, of a hundred years ago.

Football fever: A preview of the latest round of European Championship football matches, in which Scotland play Bulgaria, Northern Ireland take on Yugoslavia, Wales travel to Belgium and, at Wembley, England play host to Northern Ireland.

Piss: As country music fans await this weekend's Wembley jamboree, David Toop takes a look at the ageing line-up

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,563



- ACROSS**
- Offensive way to hold a silk handkerchief (7).
 - Peuton - thus lawful (7).
 - Knight - a man who has made a fortune in India (5).
 - Does a revolutionary have to put a ring in his hair? (9).
 - On stage, this lady's maid is a sure bet to be flighty (9).
 - In Bow he allowed about a hundred to be chosen (5).
 - Sequester, as some men do willingly (5).
 - Next one in the office - a big name with other ranks (7).
 - Current centre backing dull pupils of similar ability? (9).
 - Reversed roles, incurring violent punishment (5).
 - Look sullen when let down (5).
 - Not romantic, like the Mikado's Monday Pops (9).
 - Does beginning to bowl during *Water Music*? (4-5).
- DOWN**
- Grieved for Edward, the viscount's son (5).
 - Strange dialect in General Booth's headquarters (7).
 - Reaching this point of no return made Caesar cross (7).
 - Immerse in southern river (5).
 - Flexibility displayed in writings about the south (9).
 - Way to travel on escaping from a wind-stone (5).
 - Affectedly dainty note originally reproduced through this (7).
 - Turning-point reached when draw-sheet is replaced (9).
 - Short break before end of campaign upset Russian officer (9).
 - Like an old Arab artist in picturesque surroundings (9).
 - See doctor outside about a strain (7).
 - Young fellow is suffering to become a champion (7).
 - Force away the remainder, say (5).
 - Barbarous game restricted by church leaders at first (5).
 - Gentleman in India has turned up on the same place (5).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?
By Philip Howard

BAWKSHAW
a. The merle
b. Autumn leaves
c. A detective

SUPER SECOND
a. A sammich
b. A boxer's manager
c. A golfish charet

COPELOPE
a. Literary indecency
b. Study of preces stones
c. A work by Kabbalah

ARIOSE
a. Full of air
b. Soughlike
c. A garden sprinkler

Answers on page 20

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London & SE traffic roadworks	731
C London (within N & S Circs)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	734
M-ways/roads M23-A4	735
London & SE traffic roadworks	736
London & SE traffic roadworks	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
East Angles	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (includes rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

WEATHER

Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England should have bright or sunny spells. Wales, the Midlands and southern England should be cloudy, with some brightness north of the Thames Valley and patchy rain to the south. A windy day, particularly in the South, with gales on coasts. Outlook: any rain clearing the South by Thursday. Then bright in all areas, although northern Scotland may be cloudy.

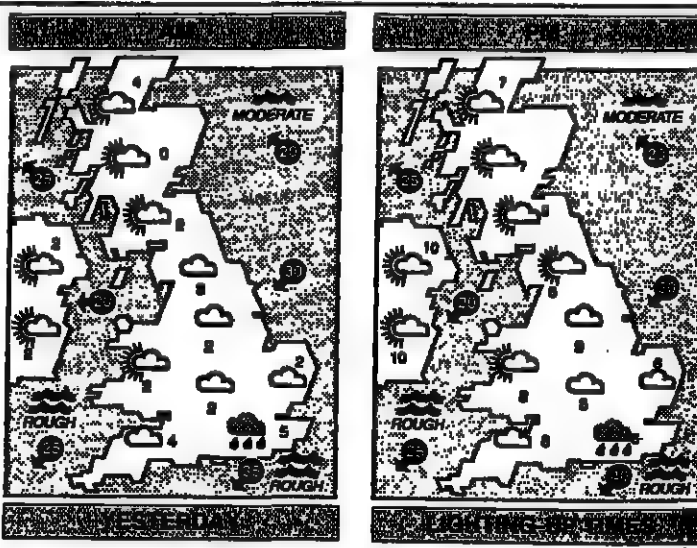
TEMPERATURE	WIND	RAIN	SEA
Monday: 15-20°C	10-15 mph	0-1 mm	1-2 m
Tuesday: 16-21°C	10-15 mph	0-1 mm	1-2 m
Wednesday: 17-22°C	10-15 mph	0-1 mm	1-2 m
Thursday: 18-23°C	10-15 mph	0-1 mm	1-2 m
Friday: 19-24°C	10-15 mph	0-1 mm	1-2 m
Saturday: 20-25°C	10-15 mph	0-1 mm	1-2 m
Sunday: 21-26°C	10-15 mph	0-1 mm	1-2 m

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Saturday: 20-25°C	10-15 mph	0-1 mm	1-2 m
Sunday: 21-26°C	10-15 mph	0-1 mm	1-2 m

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	704
Berkshire, Oxfordshire	705
Bedfordshire & Essex	706
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire	712
Derbyshire, Staffordshire	713
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire	714
Gwynedd & Caernarfon	715
N Wales	716
W & S Wales & Dees	717
N Ireland	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
East S Scotland & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Orkney & Shetland	724
N W Scotland	725
Highland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (includes rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.



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Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	707
West Midlands & Shropshire	708
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	709
Central Midlands	710
East Midlands	711
Lincolnshire, Leicestershire	712
Derbyshire, Staffordshire	713
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire	714
Gwynedd & Caernarfon	715
N Wales	716
W & S Wales & Dees	717
N Ireland	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
East S Scotland & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Orkney & Shetland	724
N W Scotland	725
Highland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (includes rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

BUSINESS AND
LAW 30-31
SPORT 35-38

Clowes seriously ill in hospital
Clowes, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

Spring Ram up
The Ram, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

Booker ahead
Booker, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

Maxwell
Maxwell, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

THE FOUND
The Found, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

STOCK MARKET
The Stock Market, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

INTEREST RATES
Interest Rates, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

CURRENCIES
Currencies, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

NORTH SEA
North Sea, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

RETAIL PRICES
Retail Prices, who has been seriously ill, is now in hospital. He is expected to remain in hospital for some time.

BUSINESS

Business Editor John Bell

Clowes seriously ill in hospital

PETER Clowes, the former chief of Barlow Clowes, the collapsed financial services group, is seriously ill in hospital.

Spring Ram up

Booker ahead

Maxwell sells

US dollar

German mark

Exchange index

FT 30 Share

FT-SE 100

New York Dow Jones

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

Rises

Falls

Closing Prices

London Bank Base

Trade worries despite sharp cut in deficit

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S current account deficit narrowed sharply in February to £192 million, but the figures revealed that the underlying improvement in trade performance may be temporary.

Germany overtakes US as top exporter

UNIFICATION has made Germany the world's biggest exporter, overtaking America.

Saatchi reveals £5.2m loss

By OUR CITY STAFF

Standard plans return to Iran

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD Chartered has a reputation for bold banking where no bank has gone before.



Tough year of uncertainty: a glam Tony Gill at yesterday's announcement

Lucas to shed 800 jobs as profits fall

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

LUCAS Industries is to cut another 800 jobs in its British motor component business over the next few months.

Bellway heads rights issue queue with call for £25m

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

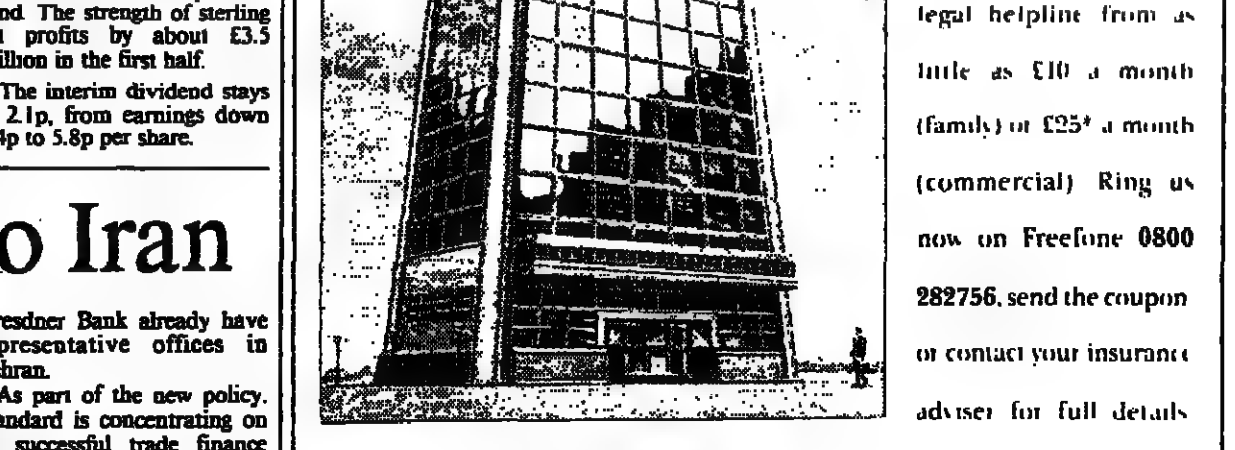
BELLWAY, the Newcastle housebuilder, heads what is expected to be a long queue of companies launching rights issues this week.

Northern plans cutback

By ROSS TEBBEN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NORTHERN Electric is to shed 300 jobs, almost a tenth of its labour force, over the next five years.

STANDING UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS CAN BE A LITTLE DAUNTING.



WHERE WOULD YOU BE WITHOUT LPG?

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Lucas shows recession is no blip

Lucas Industries has improved its image so much in recent years that the stock market was surprised to find profits crumbling in the face of dire market conditions. That excessive optimism in the City is a tribute to the group's transformation since it posted a loss in the recession ten years ago.

Lucas has concentrated on high value added components and improved quality. The British market no longer dominates its business, the aerospace component business has grown strongly and the range of customers in both motor and aircraft businesses has been broadened and is still growing as a matter of policy.

In short, Lucas is a paradigm of the desirable changes in British manufacturing forced by the long slump of a decade ago: leaner, smarter and more up market. There is a message if groups such as Lucas are suffering and especially if, as is the case, the prospect of recovery some time in the future hinges solely on logic and not on any evidence yet available from its markets.

The missing link is the steady

progress now being made in cutting interest rates. Since retail price inflation is now forecast to fall to 4 per cent by the fourth quarter of the year, the supposition is that interest rates should keep falling within short-term currency restraints to bring real interest rates down to a reasonable level.

There is, however, little reason to suppose that manufacturing companies will enjoy any quick recovery to previous levels of profit. True, the Chancellor forecast in his Budget that, once the tide turns in the summer, output will grow 2 per cent in the 12 months to the middle of 1992. The base period for that growth will, however, be much lower than thought a few months ago.

For companies, there should be some additional recovery in demand from America. But Lucas for one has already noticed the first signs, in terms of planned demand for components, that growth in Ger-

many, which has been the saving grace for many exporters, is turning down.

Markets will not hang on monthly trade figures after this year's likely deficit was cut in half by a statistical revision. The least attractive part of the latest figures, however, is the total absence of growth in export volumes. They are, indeed, on a downturn.

This new economic message is only beginning to come through to financial markets. Forecasts of Lucas' pre-tax profits for the year to end July are coming down sharply, with one reputable but overly sanguine analyst reducing his estimate from £165 million to £117 million against last year's £191 million.

Even in 1992-93, Lucas might recover only halfway back to its 1989-90 level without currency

and interest rate help. No wonder its shares fell 10p to 151p yesterday, at which they still probably sell at more than 12 times likely earnings and rely on a pretty safe 6.2 per cent dividend yield.

British companies may be strong enough to look through to recovery. A slow recovery in demand in British and world markets may prove more durable. This recession, however, is not going to prove a mere blip.

Iron grip

The dismissal of six directors from Grandfield Rork Collins, Saatchi & Saatchi's financial public relations subsidiary, has revealed the iron grip the banks now have around the troubled advertising group. The

departing six claim they were dismissed because they refused to sign two sets of financial guarantees. The first was that Saatchi's banks would have first call over Grandfield's income and assets if the group was declared insolvent. The second declared that Grandfield could remain solvent for at least a year if its parent goes under.

Saatchi's bankers have doubtless insisted on such assurances from Saatchi's loose-knit network of subsidiaries as conditions for maintaining their existing facilities and offering up to £30 million in additional loans.

Their demands are understandable given their considerable exposure to the group. They also demonstrate yet again the hazards of lending to a group which consists of people business, where healthy subsidiaries can disappear rather than being saleable assets if things go wrong. Creditors of the subsidiaries

would, conversely, be upset if they discovered their money had been diverted to Saatchi's bankers in the event of a liquidation.

Saatchi has been at some pains to stress that its troubles were mainly at the group level until the recent downturn in advertising spending. The reality can, however, never be quite like this, especially when any spare cash in subsidiaries is, quite naturally, transferred immediately to the group as an inter-company loan.

The incident demonstrates the vulnerability of people businesses. In losing six members of its middle-management Saatchi has also lost six profit centres. A substantial part of Grandfield's intangible assets and goodwill has walked out of the door and will soon re-open elsewhere in competition with its former owner.

On Wednesday, shareholders in Saatchi are likely to support the group's refinancing. But the group has a long struggle ahead to ensure these stringent guarantees are never called on, and the last thing it needs to do is alienate its staff.

DECEIVING the community with poor statistics is not usually a profitable long-term strategy. People can be fooled once, perhaps more often, but eventually they react.

The unreliable supplier will tend to lose customers, and the chairman who deceives investors is liable to find the shares of his company trading at a permanent discount to those of his competitors. Even the politician who fails to live up to his promises may fall.

British economic statistics, however, have not provoked retribution despite consistently misleading the observer. If we judge by the way journalists write about statistics, the way politicians refer to them, or the way City analysts use them, economic data are viewed as paragons of reliability.

The reality is that just about every piece of information published in the last 40 years has been heavily revised at a later date - often to an extent that renders earlier estimates unrecognisable. The latest example of wholesale revisionism concerns the external trading position of the United Kingdom last year.

For most of the last 12 months, we were told the country was chalking up huge deficits that would debilitate the national balance sheet for years to come. Then, a couple of weeks ago, the numbers were changed. At a stroke, it emerged that a rapid improvement had occurred last year and that the final quarter had produced a position that was close to balance.

Instead of needing another 18 months of recession for the trade gap to be closed, we needed barely three!

It has to be admitted that reliable information in this area is difficult to collect. To understand the constraints under which the Central Statistical Office operates, we may note that if a tourist walks into Marks and Spencer and buys a sweater, his transaction has properly to be recorded as an invisible export. If, alternatively, the sweater were

I'm sorry, I'll add that up once more



Crisis, what crisis? Denis Healey, Chancellor in 1967

purchased by a resident, it would count as consumer's expenditure. One influences the "current account," the other does not. But how is anyone to distinguish between the two situations? The sales assistant does not ask to see the customer's passport, nor would any assessment based on race or accent be reliable.

The only guide the authorities have is the information they get about foreign exchange transactions. If the customer were a tourist, he may have changed his currency into sterling before his visit or, if he had used a charge card, his subsequent payment would also show up in currency dealings. The authorities have then to distinguish between such "revenue" transactions and a much larger number that relate to "investment" activities.

recognise is that the published data on invisible trade are going to be inaccurate. That does not mean, however, that the information is useless. Indeed, so long as the errors are fairly consistent, the numbers may be valuable. The anthropologist who travels to remote parts and encounters a strange tribe that always tells lies, has no difficulty in glean- ing information from them if he takes their conventions into account. It is only if he is stupid or if the tribe only sometimes lies that he will make wrong decisions.

The parallel is apt. We have a mendacious CSO and it is only if the analyst is dim that serious deception can arise. When the authorities gave their depressing assessment of external trade last year, we should have nodded wisely and waited for the statisticians to review their estimates.

That is what the president analyst did in the alleged sterling crisis of 1967 and 1974. As Denis Healey, Chancellor in 1967, would no doubt like to point out, while the deficit was calculated at 2.5 per cent of GNP at the time, the figure has since been revised to 1.25 per cent and the word crisis seems less applicable.

Certainly, the market strategist has almost invariably been correct if he bought securities when the rest of the community was losing its composure over the supposed seriousness of the economy's trading performance.

The sting in the tale is that, if everyone starts to perceive things correctly (and begin to forecast CSO revisions, for instance), the previously accurate forecaster will lose his edge. If, horror of horrors, the CSO should start to anticipate its own revisions, by upgrading its initial estimates, we would be thrown into confusion. Proposals that the CSO get higher appropriations in order that it can improve the quality of its data should be strangled at birth!

ROGER NIGHTINGALE
Independent analyst

Booker faces a challenge

TEMPUS

AFTER paying £302 million for Fitch Lovell last year Booker said it really only wanted half of the business and would consequently be staging several disposals to reduce gearing from 170 per cent of shareholders' funds to more manageable levels.

Less than four months into the job, Booker is having second thoughts. Although almost £28 million was raised from the disposal of three former Fitch subsidiaries, reducing gearing to 112 per cent at year-end, Booker now argues that the remaining businesses make a better fit than originally expected.

That may well be the case, although the disappointing prices being offered for unwanted parts of Fitch will undoubtedly have played a big role in altering the management line.

But, if no further large disposals are imminent the only way gearing can be reduced is by substantially improving margins in each of Booker's wide-ranging divisions. That poses quite a challenge.

Profits rose 14 per cent last year to £102.9 million and earnings 13 per cent to 41.5p. A final dividend of 14p makes a total 21.25p, up from 19.5p.

Growth owed much to creditable increases of 25 per cent in food distribution profits and a 19 per cent advance in health products. Profits should show a further increase to about £130 million this year, but the full impact of Fitch Lovell will restrict earnings growth to less than 45p.

leaving the shares on a prospective price/earnings of 10.8p. At 46.5p the shares are high enough.

Bellway

WHEN, in as many days, three housebuilders tap their shareholders for cash, it seems plain that an end to the recession is in sight. And even if that end remains some way off, it begins to look as though it may be hard in future to better some of the land prices available now.

Bellway, whose strength has always been the concentration of its operations in and around its Newcastle heartland, has been tempted by land values in London's commuter belt that have fallen to half what they were, and sees a perfect opportunity to im-

prove the company's geographical balance.

Still ungared, thanks to last year's preference issue, Bellway is in a strong enough position to launch a substantial buying programme, and could emerge in the Nineties as a powerful national player.

The issue terms, indicating a 265p ex-rights price and a 9p discount to last night's close, were well received, despite being more than 17 times projected earnings for the current year. The board's forecast of £8.75 million pre-tax looks as conservative as its financial management, and something over £9 million is expected by close followers.

Depending on how fast the new land can be transformed into houses, and how fast interest rates come down, profits could begin to motor in 1992.

Spring Ram

SOMEONE forgot to invite Spring Ram to the recession. The kitchen and bathroom manufacturer should have been a leading victim of the downturn, since its sales depend on the home improvement market.

The company's figures for the year to January 4 defy conventional wisdom. Turnover increased a fifth, to £145 million, to produce a 25 per cent rise in the profit before tax to £30.1 million, despite a £970,000 write-off of customers' bad debts.

Spring Ram's astonishing success is founded on its manufacturing skills, won through 11 years of organic growth and coupled with relentless innovation and investment. The company has never increased the prices of its 230 products, while it delivers weeks faster than some competitors. The reward was a rise in market share of nearly 30 per cent last year.

There is a price for this growth and part of it is shouldered by investors. Spring Ram's dividend for 1990 is a paltry 0.48p, covered almost 23 times by earnings. A more reasonable 4.3p payout, with a cover of three times, would drain £5.7 million from cashflow. The shares, at 194p, carry a yield of 0.3 per cent.

Spring Ram is capable of making £39 million this year, putting the shares on a price-earnings ratio of 14. The price reflects the company's quality, but investors seeking income should look elsewhere.

British Gas Advises Customers of Amendments to the Contract Pricing Schedules

SCHEDULES F12, F13 AND F14 ADDENDUM 1st APRIL 1991

1. For firm contracts entered into under Schedules F12, F13 and F14 the following addendum will apply. The existing termination and reconciliation arrangements will continue to apply save that at the written request of the customer the contract may be terminated subject to its being demonstrated that the customer is immediately substituting the supply under that contract with a gas supply from an alternative supplier from the date of termination. In those circumstances the customer's contract with British Gas shall be reconciled on the basis of the customer's consumption for that supply at the premises over the period of twelve months ending on the date of termination.

2. For interruptible contracts entered into under Schedule F14 on or after 1st April 1991 the following addendum will apply. Under the section headed - "(ii) Optional Terms at Customer's Choice for an Interruptible Contract" - the indices under the columns headed "Short Period" and "Medium Period" will be amended to "100% HFO."

3. For firm and interruptible contracts entered into under Schedule F14 on or after 1st April 1991, General Note 4 "Index-Linked Contracts" will be amended as follows:-

(a) The Reference for indices will be: Gas Oil/Heavy Fuel Oil/Platt's Oilgram PPI: HM Central Statistical Office Digest British Gas will, on a monthly basis for interruptible contracts and three monthly for firm contracts, notify customers with index-linked contracts of the variations in the value of these indices.

(b) Customers entering into index-linked interruptible contracts under this Schedule F14 may select one of the following top and bottom stop pricing options:-

Option 1
Top Stop:- the top stop price for 1 and 2 year contracts will be 25% and 35% respectively above the Initial Contract Price, subject to an overall maximum of 5% above the single premises price in volume band 1 at the start of the contract.

Bottom Stop:- the bottom stop price will be 5% below the single premises price in volume band 8 at the start of the contract.

Option 2
Top Stop:- the top stop price will be 10% above the price for the customer's nominated volume band under the Schedule prevailing at the time of supply subject to an overall maximum of 5% above the single premises price in volume band 1 at the start of the contract.

Bottom Stop:- the bottom stop price will be 5% below the single premises price in volume band 8 at the start of the contract.

Option 3
Top Stop:- the top stop price will be 5% above the price for the Customer's nominated volume band under the Schedule prevailing at the time of supply.

Bottom Stop:- the bottom stop will be 5% below the price for the Customer's nominated volume band under the Schedule prevailing at the time of supply.

SCHEDULE ST2 ADDENDUM 1st APRIL 1991

1. With effect from 1st April 1991 the Schedule ST2 is withdrawn. Existing contracts entered into under Schedule ST2 will continue in force until expiry or earlier termination in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Copies of the Schedules and conditions of contract are available from the Registered and Regional Head Offices of British Gas.

British Gas

British Gas plc, Registered Office, Rivermill House, 152 Grosvenor Road, London SW1V 3JL. Registered in England under Number 2706000

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Unwarranted behaviour

MORGAN Stanley has become the first victim of a purge that may rock the City to its foundations. The firm has admitted making 23 copies of Warrants, Options and Convertibles, a book by Quintin Price, media analyst at James Capel. Morgan has admitted giving a photocopy of the book to a potential client, thus saving on the £75 cover price, and making another 22 copies for its Japanese warrants desk. Now, embarrassed directors have handed a cheque for £4,030 in compensation to The Copyright Licensing Agency - more than twice the amount it would have cost using normal channels. The copies have also been handed over. "This is the first case of its kind," says Edward Barrow, licensing officer at CLA, who is keeping an eye out for other offenders. The publisher, IFR, has presented Price with a sizeable cheque to make up for the lost royalties, and he is now ready to buy his fellow analysts a celebratory drink. "We haven't noticed a great difference in his lifestyle," says an amused colleague.

Walker Rawson

IT IS tough being a company chairman. Jim Rawson of Epwin, the double-glazing supplier, went on a sponsored walk at the weekend to get in shape for his year-end results, published yesterday. He walked seven miles, helped

raise £1,000 for a school, visited 15 pubs en route, and hurt his knee-cap. "I felt rather ill at the end," says the intrepid Rawson.

Rimell's return

THE lure of City dealing screens has proved too strong for Philip Rimell, founder of County NatWest Securities who is back in the Square Mile after a three-year break. He has been appointed managing director of Durlacher West, a small agency broker set up last year by William West and Peter Durlacher, whose grandfather, Frederick, founded Wedd Durlacher Rimell, aged 53, is joined by Colin Ring, formerly of Sassoon (UK) and an expert on Japan, who has been brought in to develop an international arm. "We will specialise in the smaller company sector and plan to make a sizeable dent in the market,"

says Rimell, who was introduced to his new post by Stephenson Cobbold, the firm of headhunters. Having built up County's stockbroking arm from scratch - and doing the same before that as managing director of WICO, the overseas division of WI Carr - Rimell is looking to recruit another 30 employees, hence doubling the size of the venture.

THE Lloyd's market enjoyed a rare flurry of activity on Friday when Margaret Thatcher dropped in for a surprise visit. John Wehenell, an underwriter, was particularly pleased when the former prime minister sat down in his box - and stayed for 35 minutes. "We had brokers queuing up for ages," said a delighted underwriter.

Ling on board

PHILIP Ling has notched up his third non-executive directorship by joining the board of P-E International, Britain's oldest management consultant. Ling, chairman of Haden MacLellan Holdings, the transatlantic engineering group, first caught the eye of City corporate financiers in 1985 when he joined Haden from London & Midland Securities. In response to a hostile takeover bid by Trafalgar House, he led a successful £50 million management buyout of Haden, and went on to mastermind a string of similar deals. "I'm not a collector of directorships," says Ling, aged 44, who began his career with Johnson &

Firth Brown in 1973. "My work with P-E will give me a window on how companies work." Just back from a heli-skiing adventure in the Canadian Rockies, Ling also sits on the boards of Istock Johnson and Fitch RS.

SLOGAN seen on the side of a pest-control company van in Sherborne, Dorset: "No ifs, ants or bugs."

Earth mothers

CITY people tired of the morning slog to work can take heart. From next month, they can travel to work by air-conditioned minibus, stocked with telephones and fax machines. Earthline, the new shuttle service, has been set up by Giovanni Imperiali, a former futures dealer at Prudential, and Gregory Lee, a former marketing executive at Olivetti. For an average cost of £10 a day, City slickers will be able to take their place in a luxurious 16-seater Mercedes Benz minibus, watch live CNN news reports - or listen to classical music if they prefer - and be handed the morning newspapers by hostesses, supplied by a top modelling agency. "Customers who expect typical boring attendants will be in for a surprise," says Imperiali, aged 28, who is casting his eye over likely applicants. From April 29, the sleek buses will ply a route between Paddington and Waterloo and the Square Mile, and new destinations will be added later.

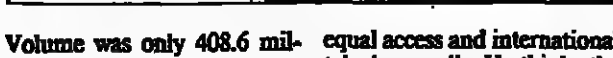
JON ASHWORTH



'Let us try to keep down the trade figures, Fiona'

By Our City Staff

Water shares take a dive on renationalisation fears



London Traded Options have been held out because of pressure on space

PHILIP PANGALOS

PHILIP PANGALOS

From Lulu Yu
IN HONG KONG

Cathay has outstanding commitments to acquire ten Boeing jumbo jets and ten Airbuses, plus options for a further 15 Boeing 747-400s and 14 Airbus A330-300s.

New York
SHARES made mild gains in early trading with the Dow Jones industrial average rising 11.88 points to 2,870.79. Advancing shares took a five-to-three lead over declining shares. Analysts said that shares closed on Friday on an upswing, and that momentum had carried them higher yesterday morning. The firmer dollar also contributed. (Reuter)

[illegible][illegible]

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Dealizations	For Settlement
March 18	April 5	June 27	July 5

Call options were taken out on: 25/3/90 ADT, Amstrad, Brent Walker, Budgets, Burns Anderson, Business Tech, Dares Estates, Explains, Munstapring, Iwerale West, NSM, Bishops & Satchell.

Pet & Galt Dairy Corp.

COMPUTER PEOPLE (Fin)
Pre-tax: £31.1m (£4.22m)
EPS: 18.42p (21.30p)
Div: 4.1p mkg 6.2p

EPWIN GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £35.1m (£3.05m)
EPS: 15.5p (14.1p)
Div: 4.3p mkg 6.4p

BLAYBORN GROUP (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.58m
EPS: 4.4p (2p loss)
Div: 2.5p mkg 3.8p

RICARDO INTL (Int)
Pre-tax: £2.50m (£1.48m)
EPS: 5.24p (7.25p)
Div: 1.9p (1.3p)

NINW COMPUTERS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £413,000
EPS: 1.3p (0.2p)
Div: 0.5p (0.25p)

SHARPE & FISHER (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.81m (£2.92m)
EPS: 6.3p (9.4p)
Div: 2.5p mkg 4p (4p)

LLOYD THOMPSON (Int)
Pre-tax: £5.11m (£4.03m)
EPS: 9.3p (7.9p)
Div: 2.7p (2.3p)

SHEFFIELD INSULATIONS
Pre-tax: £8.19m (£5.5m)
EPS: 15.6p (15.9p)
Div: 3.6p mkg 5.4p

ROTORK (Fin)
Pre-tax: £7.71m (£6.15m)
EPS: 16.08p (13.1p)
Div: 5.15p mkg 9p (8p)

HANDLEY-WALKER (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.4m (£2m)
EPS: 13.4p (20p)
Div: 5p mkg 8p (8p)

ESTATES & AGENCY
Pre-tax: £686,000
EPS: 8.4p (7.47p)
Div: None announced

NWM BEDFORD (Fin)
Pre-tax: £258,707 loss
EPS: 4p (8.3p profit)
Div: Nil

FRUIT GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £32,000
EPS: 0.1p (5.12p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)

Last time's total dividend was 5.85p. Extraordinary charge of £836,000 relates to closure of datacentre operation in New York.

Last time's total dividend was 6p. Extraordinary charge of £551,000 relates to disposals. Upturn in demand unlikely until late 1991.

Previous year's profits £200,000 and dividend 3.5p. Extraordinary charge of £1,000 covers trading losses and closure of Statwood Toy Co.

Russian automotive contracts suspended through lack of foreign currency at estimated cost of £1m. Trading conditions still difficult.

Previous year's profits £87,000. Turnover fell from £9.12m to £8.73m but margins improved and trading profits rose from £0.42m to £0.52m.

Profits from building supplies halved to £284,000; property income down from £2.45m to £2.1m. Sales remain depressed.

Profits rose despite adverse impact of weak dollar. Acquisitions helped turnover rise from £9.8m to £13.4m. Favourable outlook for full year.

Final results. 4.95p dividend paid in 1989. Board expects lower level of activity in each sector in 1991, but still confident about prospects.

Turnover up from £39.3m to £50.8m. There was a net loss of £208,000 on the sale of subsidiaries. Board confident of progress this year.

Provisions for bad and debts substantially increased. Overseas sales accounted for almost 28 per cent of revenues, against 24 per cent.

Final. Previous year's profits were £508,000. Directors will recommend final dividend when results for 18 months to the end-June are known.

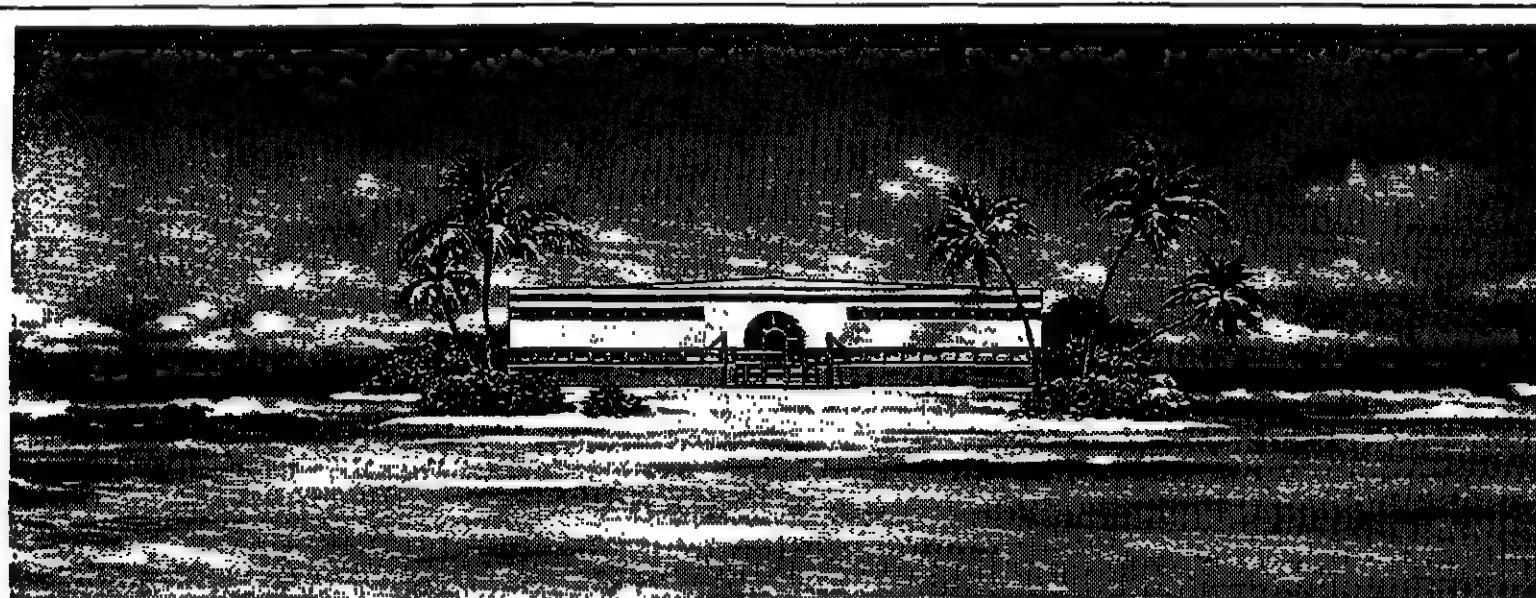
Previous profits were £265,345 when company paid 1p total dividend. Turnover for first two months of 1991 down 52 per cent.

Comparative loss in previous year £556,000. Group trading profitably since September 1990. Turnover almost unchanged at £5.7m.

EQUITIES	
Adantis Resources	87
Aberforth Smr (150p)	118
Alliance Ras	43
Aluminium Res (150p)	139
CPM Java Corp (30p)	80
British Cairn (30p)	80
ENVI Java Ltd (30p)	80
East German Inv	117-2
Edice (100p)	80
Enbrook	89
Energy Europe	14
Enserch Plast (75p)	125
Forenig & Col	50
Highcroft Inv	185
Imperial Gordon (135p)	162
Laveston (108p)	89
M&MCC	34
M&H (20p)	34
Mitiska Capital	27
Midland Radio	81
Mitiska Gas (30p)	81
Proetus Inv (64p)	128-11
Sunco Healthcare	81-1
Smaller Trf	175
Stand Platform (225p)	88
Two Inv Trst	150-12
Utd Uniform	216-2
Unichem (100p)	88
Vee Typ App	88

● See main prices page for Else shares

New York:		
Dow Jones	2676.98	(+18.07)
S&P Composite	370.46	(+2.95)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	29645.79	(+32.50)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	3718.55	(+2.40)
FT-SE Euro 100	1076.41	(-0.90)
Asterdam:		
CBS Tendency	93.9	(+0.5)
Amsterdam 100	1429.51	(-1.5)
Frankfurt DAX	1515.50	(-4.75)
Brussels:		
General	5748.12	(+15.13)
Paris CAC	491.92	(+2.62)
Zurich SKA Gen	542.0	NA
London:		
FT - All-Share	1183.79	(-5.33)
FT - 100	1302.26	(-8.55)
FT - Financial	145.5	(+0.5)
FT - Food	94.06	(-0.18)
FT - Govt Svcs	94.51	(-0.51)
Berlin:		
SDAX Volume	36994	
SDAX	406.58	
SDAX (Domestic)	136.50	(-0.28)
Source: Reuters teletype market		



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CORNER



[illegible][illegible]

Exchange Index compared with 1985 was down at 82.2 (day's range 82.1-92.3).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Bank Rates for March 25	Range	Close	1 month	3 months
New York	1.7015-1.7020	1.7065-1.7085	1.03-0.01	2.03-0.22
London	2.0407-2.0503	2.0453-0.2481	0.03-0.05	0.77-0.50
Amsterdam	3.3114-3.3210	3.3174-3.3210	16-1c	25-1c
Frankfurt	1.2115-1.2125	1.2125-0.01	90-25	10-25
Copenhagen	11.2325-11.3014	11.2745-11.2385	31c-25c	61c-53c
Stockholm	1.1105-1.1125	1.1105-0.01	10-25	10-25
Paris	2.2375-2.2400	2.2442-0.2458	11c-10c	21c-20c
Liban	255.15-257.81	255.52-257.56	38-17c	17-55c
Osaka	1.2115-1.2130	1.2115-0.01	10-25	10-25
Milan	2115.82-2119.57	2115.90-2122.67	4-2c	7-4c
Offshore	11.4375-11.4925	11.4561-11.4781	11c-10c	21c-20c
Geneva	9.9527-10.0191	9.9527-0.01	7-5c	10-10c
Stockholm	10.0559-10.1746	10.0583-10.1751	1-1c	1-1c
Tokyo	240.3-244.35	240.84-244.35	10-25	10-25
Frankfurt	20.55-20.75	20.70-20.75	75c-60c	105c-155c
Zurich	2.6150-2.6226	2.6170-0.2617	1-1c	2c-1c

Source: Bank of England (Frankfurt) = pr. (Stockholm) = 25c

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rate: Clearing Banks 12% Finance Rate 14			
Discount Market Loans: Overnight 13% 1% 12% 10%			
Time Rates (Monthly) 3 m 11% 3 m 11% 3 m 11% 3 m 11%			

Prime Bank 80% (24h)	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m
Time Rate (24h)	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m
Interbank:	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m
Overnight:	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m
Local Authority Depos:	12m	12m	12m	12m	12m
Starting Call:	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m
Building Society Call:	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m	12m-12m

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%
Swiss Franc:	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%
French Franc:	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%
West German:	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%
Yen:	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%	6% 6%

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Barrels: 200-202.50-205.00	Close: 205.00-205.50	High: 205.50-207.50
Low: 203.00-204.00	Open: 204.50-205.00	High: 205.50-207.50
Gold: 200-202.50-205.00	Close: 205.00-205.50	High: 205.50-207.50
Low: 203.00-204.00	Open: 204.50-205.00	High: 205.50-207.50

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	1985.5-1986.0	Ireland	1.5940-1.5950
Australia dollar	2.2696-2.2700	Singapore	1.7710-1.7720
Bahian dollar	1.7100-1.7110	Malaysia	2.7535-2.7545
Brazilian cruzeiro	412.00-413.00	Thailand	1.2070-1.2080
Cyprus pound	0.7130-0.7135	France	1.1997-1.1998
Finland mark	5.5425-5.5435	Sweden	0.9000-0.9005
German mark	7.1450-7.1455	Switzerland	0.4575-0.4580
Hong Kong dollar	13.735-13.736	Denmark	6.3825-6.3830
India rupee	54.16-54.36	W Germany	1.8685-1.8690
Israeli sheqel	1.82-1.83	Yugoslavia	1.4270-1.4275
Malaysia ringgit	3.5544-3.5550	Netherlands	1.8355-1.8360
New Zealand dollar	2.9505-2.9510	Portugal	1.6250-1.6255
South Africa rand	3.1222-3.1225	Spain	1.7471-1.7472
Sri Lanka rupee	6.7321-6.7325	United Kingdom (Cont)	1.2550-1.2555
Taiwan dollar	3.7785-3.7790	Hong Kong	7.885-7.886
US dollar	1.7785-1.7790	Philippines	1.45-1.455
US dollar	1.7785-1.7790	Australia	11.75-11.755

Source: Bank of England (Frankfurt) = pr. (Stockholm) = 25c

ECB: Fixed Rate Sterling Spot Exchange Rates, Make-up day: Dec 31, 1990. Agreed rate Jan 25, 1991 to Feb 25, 1991. Schemes 1 & 14.5%, Schemes 1 & 14.5%,

[illegible][illegible]

The single European market means a highly competitive business opportunity to industry and commerce. To lawyers, however, it has become a threat to cosy established monopolies. In the name of protecting those same free marketeers, the lawyers' self-regulatory bodies are fighting a rearguard action to prevent large commercial law firms exporting their services.

Claiming the moral high ground of consumer protection, the lawyers' self-regulatory bodies insist that law and lawyers cannot be exported beyond national boundaries unless they are strictly regulated.

At stake is a slice of profits from the lucrative market in advising clients on the laws of the European Community and its member states. The protectionist lobby wants to reserve that business for its own lawyers. The free marketeers argue there should be open competition.

The debate centres on the right of lawyers and their firms to open offices in other member states, employ local lawyers and merge with local firms.

The main battle line is drawn between those countries, notably The Netherlands and Britain, where commercial law firms have grown into large multi-specialist partnerships, which export legal services, and the rest of Europe, where law is practised mainly by sole practitioners or firms with fewer than 20 lawyers.

The issue has come to a head in France. Taking advantage of the European Commission's indecision, French lawyers have thrust their noses at the single market. The French justice ministry steered through a law last Decem-

ber which, on the face of it, makes a mockery of the freedoms laid down in the Treaty of Rome. Under the guise of fixing a split profession, the French legislation makes the giving of any legal advice, including advice on foreign and European Community law, a monopoly in France.

The law is based on a clever interpretation of the community's directive on the mutual recognition of legal diplomas. The directive was an attempt to allow individual lawyers to qualify and practise the host state's domestic law without going back to first base. Every member state could require the lawyer either to spend time in a law firm or to take a simple aptitude test.

The French law turns the directive on its head, by taking the principle that a lawyer has a right to become a member of the French legal profession and making it an obligation, regardless of the law he or she intends to practise. A Greek lawyer advising a Dutch client on Greek law in Paris is breaking French law unless he has re-qualified.

Foreign firms are also barred from opening branch offices. The law is to come into force on January 1, 1992. Only foreign lawyers and firms established before December 31, 1990, can become automatic members of the domestic legal profession.

Community law purists say French law is in blatant breach of the freedoms to establish and provide services under the Treaty

LEGAL BRIEF

As the 1992 single market arrives, lawyers face new threats to cosy monopolies, but Josephine Carr finds a French spanner in the works which could wreck the system

of Rome. This may not be easy to prove. The Law Society previously sought leading counsel's advice on the legality of a previous draft of the French law. Jeremy Lever, QC, and Richard Pender took a cautious view, concluding they could not confidently predict what the European Court of Justice, a forum of lawyers after all, would decide under the test of whether the restrictions are "objectively justified as in the general good".



They are seeking counsel's opinion in a renewed attempt to find a way to challenge the French law. The next move will be in May, in Dublin, at the meeting of the Council for the Bars of Europe (CCBE). The CCBE, which is made up of delegations from Europe's 12 bar associations and law societies, claims the right to decide cross-border issues affecting the legal profession, but represents the ultra-conservatives' in-

terests. The body has made no public comment on the French law for fear of upsetting the French delegation and its allies. As a compromise, the CCBE has drawn up its own draft directive on rights of establishment for lawyers creating two categories of foreign lawyers: integrated lawyers, who enter the host state's legal profession under the diploma directive, and registered lawyers, who wish to establish

themselves in the host state but practise their home state law.

The draft directive draws back from the French law and recognises a lawyer's right to establish himself under his home state title, but it raises controversial issues. In particular, it recognises the host state's right to impose its rules and restrictions on lawyers establishing themselves within its territory. The directive, called by one lawyer "an attempt to transnationalise the French monopoly law", allows the host bar to discipline foreign lawyers, ban activities such as advertising and control the form of association between domestic and foreign lawyers.

John Toulmin, QC, a member of the English delegation to the CCBE and one of the drafters of the directive, admits the CCBE has made no independent study of individual bar rules. Instead, it relies on the proviso that any rules applied to registered lawyers must be objectively justified under community law as being in the public good. This is a protectionist that, as the Law Society's own legal opinion says, is unconvincing when it comes to legal services. The CCBE says allowing the directive is better than allowing national bars to push through their own versions of the French law.

However, Michael Hutchings, a European Community law specialist, says: "The fact that so many lawyers have established in so many countries in Europe indicates the directive is not necessary."

The CCBE needs ten votes in favour before the draft becomes its official policy and can be formally presented to the commission. Despite the compromises, however, the CCBE is unlikely to get them. The Luxembourg bar, which refuses to recognise the right of any foreign lawyers to establish themselves within its territory, will vote against it. If the French also vote against, then Spain, Greece and Belgium will probably follow.

If the French vote for the draft, other protectionist bars will probably follow suit. Alarm bells should also start to ring, because the other bars will vote for it only if they believe it consolidates their power to prevent foreign lawyers establishing themselves in France in any way that will compete with domestic lawyers.

The European Commission must take a stand and impose community law on its squabbling lawyers. Lawyers properly qualified and admitted to the profession in one member state should be able to establish themselves in another and advise on their home state law, as well as associate with domestic lawyers to provide advice on host state law, without interference from host state bar associations.

The only consumer protections that matter are ensuring that a lawyer is labelled according to his or her training and that there is compulsory indemnity insurance across the community. If the French law stands, it will have a domino effect across Europe in advance of any directive and the doors to the free movement of lawyers will be locked.

© The author is the editor of International Financial Law Review.

Law Report March 26 1991 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Charge dismissed before motorist's plea was taken can be tried again

Williams v Director of Public Prosecutions
Before Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice Roush
[Judgment March 20]

A defendant was not acquitted of a charge of driving with excess alcohol in his breath when the certificate accompanying the summons showed the proportion of blood to alcohol and the magistrates had dismissed the summons before the defendant had pleaded. He could not, therefore, plead *autrefois acquit* when the prosecution issued a fresh summons correctly framed.

The requirement for the analyst's certificate to be served on the defendant not later than seven days before the hearing meant the hearing at which the evidence would be given and not necessarily the defendant's

first appearance. The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the defendant, Alan David Wood, against his conviction by Holyhead Justices on January 26, 1989 of driving with excess alcohol in his blood contrary to section 5(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1972 (as substituted by section 25(3) of the Road Traffic Act 1988).

Mr Alexander Carile, QC, for the defendant, Mr Mervyn Hughes for the prosecution.

MR JUSTICE ROUSH said that the defendant was summoned before the justices for a return date of October 29 alleging that he drove a motor vehicle after consuming so

much alcohol that the proportion of it in his breath exceeded the prescribed limit.

On July 22 the prosecution sent him a certificate which indicated that the blood specimen he had provided was found to contain not less than 98mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood.

Since the defendant was being charged with driving with an excess of alcohol in his breath, such a certificate was inapposite.

Before the justices, the defendant's solicitor took a preliminary objection before the defendant was called upon to plead. The prosecution applied for an adjournment which was refused by the justices and they dismissed the summons.

Subsequently, the prosecution served a fresh summons on December 10, in correct form, with a return date of December

13, together with a new certificate of analysis of blood.

The defendant pleaded not guilty and was convicted. In support of his appeal, Mr Carile raised two points.

The first concerned the rule against double jeopardy, that is, that a man might not be put in peril of conviction more than once for the same or substantially the same crime.

In higher courts that rule was called "*autrefois acquit*"; that phrase was inapplicable since a plea was not open in the magistrates' court although it was common ground that a plea in bar, which was the same in all but name, was open to a defendant in lower courts.

Mr Carile submitted that the original summons was perfectly valid in form and content. The difficulty was that the prosecution were unable to adduce the

evidence necessary to prove the charge.

Mr Carile argued that once the defendant's solicitor took his point before the justices it was clear that the matter was under way and being contested and therefore the defendant was in jeopardy. Having found in the defendant's favour, the justices effectively dismissed the summons.

The prosecution argued that the defendant was not in jeopardy until he had pleaded and that by virtue of the statutory bar upon the use of evidence of the proportion of alcohol in the defendant's breath, the prosecution was bound to fail.

In his Lordship's opinion there were two possible situations in which a defendant might or might not be in jeopardy.

1. The temporal question: whether the proceedings had reached such a stage that he was in peril of conviction.

2. The qualitative question: whether the imperfection of the proceedings which led to the original decision in the defendant's favour was of such a kind that he would never have been in danger of conviction.

As to the temporal question, his Lordship concluded that Mr Hughes was correct that the time at which the defendant became in peril was when his plea was taken.

So far as the qualitative question was concerned, since the prosecution had framed the charge incorrectly, the defendant could never have been convicted and he was therefore never in jeopardy within the meaning of *autrefois acquit*.

Mr Carile's second point concerned the service of the certificate which accompanied the second correct summons was served on December 10 with a return date of December 13.

Consequently, Mr Carile said, the prosecution were not entitled to prove the charge on the second summons as the defendant had not been given a copy of the certificate not later than seven days before the hearing within the mandatory

terms of section 10(5) of the 1972 Act, as substituted in Schedule 8 to the 1981 Act (now section 16(4) of the 1988 Act).

Mr Carile submitted that the hearing referred to should be interpreted to mean the hearing on the defendant's first appearance. Mr Hughes, on the other hand, submitted that "hearing" referred to the hearing at which the evidence would be given. His Lordship considered Mr Hughes was correct.

Lord Justice Taylor delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: T. R. Evans Hughes & Co, Holyhead; CPS, North Wales.

Juvenile's mode of trial cannot be changed once determined

Regina v Nottingham Justices, Ex parte Taylor

Before Lord Justice Watkins and Mr Justice French
[Judgment March 5]

Once the mode of trial of a juvenile had been determined and recorded, the fact that the juvenile attained the age of 17 before the trial was irrelevant. He was still triable as though he were 16.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when (i) granting the applicant, Marion Taylor, judicial review to quash the decision of Nottingham Justices declining jurisdiction to try him on charges of robbery and attempted robbery; and (ii) ordering that he be tried in the juvenile court.

Mr Adrian Fulford for the applicant, Miss Kathryn Thirlwall for the prosecution, Mr Guy Sanley as amicus curiae.

LORD JUSTICE WATKINS said that the applicant was born on November 14, 1972. The issue was whether the fact that the applicant became 17 on November 14, 1989 compelled the justices to commit him for trial on indictment, seeing that they had previously ordered that he be tried summarily in the juvenile court.

On April 10, 1989 he appeared before justices charged with robbery and attempted robbery. The justices made a decision "in proceedings on an appeal against the enforcement notice" and could therefore be subject of an appeal to the High Court under section 246(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

Mr Justice French agreed. Solicitors: Roberts & Sale, Ilminster; CPS, Nottingham; Treasury Solicitor.

the plea and, as the court records showed, summary trial in the juvenile court on February 6, 1990 was ordered.

On January 25, 1990 the Crown Prosecution Service applied to adjourn the trial and the deputy clerk advised the justices that since the applicant was then 17, *R v Vale of Glamorgan Justices, Ex parte Beattie* ([1984] JPR 120) applied so section 24 ceased to apply and he was triable only on indictment.

Lord Justice Watkins said that justices were being guided differently.

Three days after *Beattie* was decided, the same Divisional Court gave judgment in *R v Lewes Juvenile Court, Ex parte Turner* ([1984] JPR 186). The judgments in both cases were strongly influenced by the speech of Lord Diplock in *R v Islington North Juvenile Court, Ex parte Daley* ([1983] AC 347).

Mr Fulford maintained that the approach in *Ex parte Turner* was in all essential respects correct. The judgments clearly reflected the true effect of *Ex parte Daley* which stated that the crucial day was when the court decided, not whether or how long before the trial, which mode of trial to adopt. With that his Lordship entirely agreed.

In *Ex parte Turner*, it was held that the material date for determining whether a defendant was eligible for election jury trial was the date upon which the court made the decision on mode of trial.

Mr Justice McNeill suggested there that where a person under 17 pleaded not guilty and section 24 did not apply but it was not possible immediately to take the evidence in the trial "the

register of the court should be marked 'remanded for summary trial'. That... would be decisive and determinative of the date on which, for the purposes of the section, the defendant appeared or was brought before the court."

Following *Ex parte Turner* and especially the advice of Mr Justice McNeill should cause no difficulty whatsoever. Providing records were carefully kept, as they should be, of the proceedings when mode of trial was decided upon, his Lordship could not imagine anybody in doubt as to where, when and how a case was to be dealt with by the calling of evidence in a magistrates' court either in criminal proceedings or in summary trial.

Thus the position in law was that if before he became 17 a juvenile appeared before the court, whether for the first time or on remand, charged with an offence which was indictable or triable either way and (1) pleaded not guilty when the charge was put to directly to him and (2) the mode of his trial was discussed with him or his legal representative, decided upon and the decision thereupon recorded in clear terms, then, whether the evidence was called on that occasion or not, his becoming 17 before the trial could have no effect upon the already determined mode of trial; in other words he must be tried as though he were 16.

It was only if mode of trial had not before then been determined that his becoming 17 could have any material effect whatsoever.

Mr Justice French agreed. Solicitors: Roberts & Sale, Ilminster; CPS, Nottingham; Treasury Solicitor.

Planning inspector's order for costs can be appealed

Secretary of State for Environment, Ex parte Botton

Before Lord Justice Taylor and Mr Justice French

An order for costs made by the Secretary of State for the Environment acting by its inspector was a decision "in proceedings on an appeal against the enforcement notice" and could therefore be subject of an appeal to the High Court under section 246(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

Mr Justice French so held in the Queen's Bench Division on March 1 dismissing an appeal by Mr Albert Botton against an inspector's order for costs.

HIS LORDSHIP said that whether a section 246 appeal or an application by way of judicial review, to which different time limits applied, was appropriate need not be decided as Mr Botton had subordinated himself by using both avenues.

The combined effect of section 282(2) of the 1971 Act and section 250(5) of the Local

Government Act 1972 was to allow the minister to make orders as to the costs of parties and as such could be subject of an appeal to the High Court under section 246(1) of the 1971 Act.

The order for costs was a

decision by the secretary of state in proceedings on an appeal against an enforcement notice and as such could be subject of an appeal to the High Court under section 246(1) of the 1971 Act.

His Lordship said that such orders were made frequently in the county court and the High Court where a physical access order was the subject of the appeal. The justice was the same jurisdiction as the county court and the High Court.

serving a long custodial sentence for attempting to murder the mother.

In October 1990 he sought to have contact with his child by correspondence and the sending of presents and to receive from the mother a photograph once a year and school reports and invited the justices to make such an order under the 1971 Act. The justices refused on the ground of lack of jurisdiction.

His Lordship said that such orders were made frequently in the county court and the High Court where a physical access order was the subject of the appeal. The justice was the same jurisdiction as the county court and the High Court.

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From Dickensian to modern times

Chambers in the Inns of Court are becoming increasingly impractical. Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent, looks at some new moves

Barristers are moving out of the Inns of Court. The traditional lawned precincts of the law, minutes from the Royal Courts of Justice, are being vacated for modern office blocks and the latest technology. The Bar is not just shedding its Dickensian image. As competition grows, barristers realise that clients are less inclined to tolerate uncomfortable surroundings. Chambers are also severely overcrowded. Eleven years ago, the Royal Commission on Legal Services noted that many barristers, especially in London, worked in cramped offices. Overcrowding, it said, was affecting their work. Anthony Thornton, QC, the Bar Council treasurer, says: "The larger, more commercial sets have really outgrown their existing chambers. So if they are not to split into two or three annexes, a set of offices near the Inns, which is equally convenient for the law courts, can give them a complete package."

In recent months, the exodus has become a steady stream. Brick Court Chambers now has its main premises just outside the Temple gates in offices formerly occupied by solicitors. The set of Christopher Friday, QC, has moved from King's Bench Walk to a modern building behind Temple Church. The newly named Falcon Chambers is more spacious and houses everybody under one roof. Others, as well as the big commercial and civil law sets, are on the move. A specialised criminal law set headed by Andrew Mitchell moved this week from 2 Garden Court to a modernised Fleet Street "black" containing conference and reception rooms, a library, and "playback" equipment, computer technology and a developing database of recent changes in the criminal law.

Michael Hill, QC, has taken his 30-strong set into a block in Essex Street rented from the Inns. With the civil set of John Dwyer, QC, below, the building is almost a self-contained "one-stop shopping" unit. The custom-designed suite of white-walled rooms with modern leather furnishings and thick grey carpet is more reminiscent of a management consultancy than a traditional chambers. "People are wedded to the old idea that you find papers all over the floor in a barrister's chambers," Mr Hill says. Such moves are not just about fixtures and fittings. Their new building has enabled the set to revamp its structure in line with proposals last autumn from the Bar's strategy group. The set has grown and has a target of 35 clerks on fixed salaries plus bonuses, instead of commission, and a practice manager has been created, splitting the work of managing from the daily administration.



Christine Kings at Doughty Street chambers: "It is light and airy here"

Instead of all that wood and heavy gold. We have a waiting room, lots of flowers, and serve clients coffee and tea. We are making conscious efforts to break away from the Bar traditions that impede progress and be forward-looking. The set has a female senior clerk, uses Christian names instead of "sir", and "colourful clothes, not just grey suits", are in evidence.

So what of the Inns' future? All is far from lost. As the big sets move out, others expand into the much needed space. One set under Michael Hucker has even moved into new high-tech purpose-built premises within Lincoln's Inn. The rest will have to renovate rapidly if they are to be left behind by the others outside — as well as by the 20th century.

INNS AND OUTS

Healthy advice

MORE than 80 health authority managers were at a conference last week to learn how to cut their malpractice claims. The conference was organised by the solicitors' firm Capsticks, which is creating a niche in this market with its database of cases built up over ten years. Health authorities were particularly interested in the firm's new guide on claims management. This offers a programme for cutting the cost of claims and can be used with the firm's software to maintain an audit of claims and "near misses" to assist quality assurance. Brian Capstick says: "As hospital managements become either more independent of central government or just more financially efficient, the huge impact of claims will be taken more seriously."

mission has provisionally recommended that, rather than being automatically excluded from civil proceedings, hearsay evidence should be admitted, subject to safeguards.

The hearsay rule has already been modified by section 96 of the Children Act, which allows hearsay evidence to be admitted in, for example, hearings involving child abuse allegations. Comments are invited by May 31.

Bureau ties

THE Solicitors' Complaints' Bureau is to change the wording of an advertisement that said it was an "independent" arm of the Law Society after a complaint to the Office of Fair Trading. The advertisement, in *UK Press Gazette*, was spotted by a freelance journalist, Stanley Sall, who says: "The only way the bureau is independent from the Law Society is in geographic location. It is funded by them and its senior staff are employed and appointed by them."

Bar stories



THE *Havers' Companion to the Bar*, which caused a furore by asking barristers to talk about their most interesting cases and reveal their fees, is about to hit the market. The guide, the idea of Patti Havers, the wife of the barrister Philip Havers and daughter-in-law to the former attorney-general, is aimed not only at solicitors but also at other professionals who can now use the Bar's services direct. Despite the fuss, the directory has secured entries from 4,000 of the 6,500 practising barristers, who happily cite their cases, although for fear the reader is told to "refer to clerk". However, the Bar's initial outrage has left its mark, notably in the lack of entries from Manchester, where Bar leaders took a particularly dim view.

SCRIVENOR

again

the of section 1(1) of the 1977 Act, as substituted by section 1(1) of the 1988 Act, is that the court should be satisfied that the defendant is not a fit and proper person to have the right of audience.

Mr. Havers, who submitted that the court should be satisfied that the defendant is not a fit and proper person to have the right of audience, was supported by Mr. Havers, who submitted that the court should be satisfied that the defendant is not a fit and proper person to have the right of audience.

Lord Justice Taylor delivered the judgment of the court.

Solicitors: R. Fox, 10, High Street, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX1 1JF.

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Safety net with a hole in it

Lord Mackay's new proposals give little hope to the millions denied legal aid

THE huge decline in the number of people eligible for civil legal aid was exposed just over a year ago in a study commissioned by the Legal Action Group. The study estimated that at least 13 million had fallen out of the scope of the scheme since 1979. As a result, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, decided on a review but the main proposals, which have now been floated, make meagre reading for the millions of people denied access to justice. Fears are now widespread that the proposals do not tackle the problem and, though dressed in reforming guise, will devastate the legal aid system. Lord Mackay seems to have dismissed the possibility of extending the legal aid scheme to cover the ineligible

millions. He says: "Extending eligibility without other measures puts all the responsibility on government and largely relieves both the litigants and the lawyers of their responsibilities. Extended eligibility will quickly lead to waste and inflation of costs if it is inadequately controlled." The undercurrent is unmistakable. People receiving legal aid have little interest in their cases because they have nothing to lose. They therefore do not monitor the performance of their lawyers, and the lawyers have little incentive to act efficiently. The result is huge wastage.

Lord Mackay's solution — to "control" inefficiency — is the creation of a new system for distributing legal aid funds. He proposes that only the "most needy" litigants would obtain legal aid from the outset of their case. Clients with incomes above that of the "most needy" would be entitled to legal aid only after spending between £2,000 and £3,000 of their own money. For them, legal aid would act as a "safety net". The aim is to "give the client a better sense of personal involvement in the litigation and afford an element of client interest in cost

that is absent from the present system". Unfortunately, for all but the poorest litigants, the most likely result of the "safety net" scheme will be to prevent their involvement in litigation. A £2,000 to £3,000 threshold will exclude most people of moderate means. If evidence is needed of the hurdle created by the threshold, Lord Mackay should consider that a fifth of those offered legal aid on the condition that they contribute to the cost of their case decide they cannot afford to do so. Of those who agree to contribute, a third find themselves in arrears.

The "safety net" proposal is clearly unworkable. Where then do the millions denied access to justice look? Lord Mackay has ruled out any possibility of extending legal aid, and is effectively embarking on a cost-cutting exercise. His justification — that it does not provide the taxpayer with value for money through "waste and inflation of costs" — is, however, inadequate. If there is an inefficiency problem, why cannot it be solved, and why cannot a way be found to ensure that people are able to enforce their rights in the courts? Only three weeks ago, Lord

Mackay told the Parliamentary Press Gallery that "access to justice is one of the vital principles in a civilised society". He did not want "to penalise litigants for professional and administrative failure to control costs". Yet this is exactly what the "safety net" proposals will do. The public have a right to know where the government stands. Lord Mackay cannot say one thing and do another. If justice is no longer to be available to those who are, in the words of the 1949 Legal Aid Act, of "moderate means", he should be prepared to debate openly the consequences of his decision. He cannot take such a step while hiding behind a cynical masquerade of reform. HENRY WITCOMB

© The author is a member of the Citizen Action Campaign.

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People who pick up the pieces from the ruins

One of Stephen Hope's first cases he calls "Impact by Pigeon". "I was called to investigate a claim for damage caused by a pigeon flying into an extractor fan from a chemical laboratory," Mr Hope, a 29-year-old loss adjuster, says. "There were pieces of it 150 yards away. As I was preparing to crawl up on to the roof, the manager said 'Can we throw away the pigeon now?' They had kept it for me for two weeks."

Most loss adjusters have a stock of entertaining stories. Another was once called to a fire at a smart London hotel to find a somewhat stylish evacuation in progress, with the guests milling about on the pavement sipping champagne.

Chartered loss adjusters are, according to their professional association, "independent claims specialists whose work is to ascertain the proper liability of an insurer for a loss within the terms and conditions of the policy of insurance involved."

That official definition describes a career which is a combination of quasi-legal work and detection. Meticulous, it must be; desk-bound, it certainly is not. Loss adjusters are strictly impartial negotiators, whose services are retained by insurance companies when a claim for damage is questioned, or increasingly, today, to help with the administration of

From kamikaze pigeons to fires and thefts, the loss adjusters are often the first to come to the rescue. Beryl Dixon describes their job

straightforward claims, acting on behalf of the insurers to help their clients. "We are not just called in when fraud is suspected or damages are likely to be large, as some people think," says Bev Fitzgerald, a director of a large loss adjusting firm, and a representative of the Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters.

"Insurance companies have their own criteria," Mr Fitzgerald says. "Some automatically use a loss adjuster if a claim exceeds a set figure; many do so when there are complications; but some also use us if they are particularly busy, and their own staff are stretched. Yet others actually prefer us to do the front-line work dealing with the claimant. We are strictly impartial, even though the insurers pay our fees. It is in their interests to be able to point this out to a claimant."

Loss adjusters often arrive on the scene very quickly. "I have arrived and stood with a factory owner watching his property burn down," Mr Fitzgerald says. "That is a situation which calls for a great deal of sensitivity."

Diplomatic skills are an essential part of a loss adjuster's make-up, according to the institute. "Customer satisfaction is important both to us and to the insurance companies, so our members must be personable, good at dealing with people sensitively," Mr Fitzgerald says. They also need to be firm when necessary, he says, confident of their judgment, and with the strength of character not to be swayed when under pressure. Anyone who can combine these almost contradictory characteristics has the makings of a loss adjuster. The rest comes with the training, but ability to assimilate technical knowledge is another prerequisite. Claims work involves this in varying degrees.

In domestic claims, the adjuster first surveys and physically assesses the damage, climbing on the roof in the case of storm damage, or tactfully asking to see photographs or valuation certificates relating to stolen items. Part of their role is also helping to arrange for damage to be put right by reputable tradesmen, and before leaving they will usually explain what their recommendations

to the insurers is to be. "We pass on our findings to the companies in a full written report, but it is not on to leave the policy holder in the dark," Mr Fitzgerald says. Mindful of their impartiality, adjusters will also advise if someone has under-claimed, which is rare. They are often in the position of having to break bad news, for example when a person's property is not fully insured.

At the other end of the scale come the large industrial fires, burglaries, floods and structural damage. In the course of the day an adjuster could visit someone's home after the theft of a prized possession, a building site to assess accidental damage, and then go to a board meeting in a multinational company. The work requires considerable flexibility. The householder might want to chat over a cup of tea; the building site workers might not respond well to a man in a pin-stripe suit; while at the board meeting the adjuster is virtually an ex-officio director.

"Company directors are professional in their own work, but what to do about a factory fire, or how to replace parts or stock quickly from overseas sources — all kinds of things are outside their experience," Mr Fitzgerald says.

● The Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters is at 376 The Strand, London WC2R 0OR.



Never a dull moment: Stephen Hope enjoys the job variety

Adjust to a new career

LOSS adjusters have varied backgrounds. Candidates can train after taking GCSEs or A-levels but, because of the complex nature of the work, many employers prefer to recruit trainees with previous relevant experience. Stephen Hope, who works for the London office of a large loss adjusting firm, is a qualified quantity surveyor.

"My experience has proved very useful, although on the academic side I still have to pass the Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters exams," Mr Hope says. "The practical training is very good. I was assigned to a qualified adjuster for six weeks and accompanied him on all his visits. Then I was given my first losses to deal with, under supervision, and as I gained confidence I was assigned more cases and expected to require less help, although it was available."

"I like the way we work. We all have our own caseloads, but support each other. My colleagues here have previously been accountants, engineers, surveyors, insurers and policemen. In a sense we are an office of specialists. And if we need more expert help we can call on it — commission a forensic scientist, for example. It is a tremendously interesting job. I also enjoy the sheer variety. You never know what will happen next."

"The hours are long. On office days the phone rarely stops between 9am and 5pm, so I generally get in about 7.30am to concentrate on reports and paperwork. If a new case comes in you drop everything. But then you have to work late to complete the report for another claimant."

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

HATFIELD POLYTECHNIC

£55,000

Deputy Director - Finance & Property Development

As a leading polytechnic Hatfield is renowned for the excellent quality of its wide portfolio of courses. With over 8,000 students and over 1,500 staff the current level of annual budget is some £40M. In the light of developments since the Polytechnic became an independent corporate body in 1989 and the early retirement of the present incumbent, a deputy to the Director/Chief Executive is now sought with experience in finance and senior management generally.

As second to the Director within a small management team, you will deputise for the latter where necessary and will play a key role in the overall development of the organisation. You will have oversight at senior management level of finance, management information systems and property. The Heads of Financial Services and of Management Information Systems will report to you and, in liaison with our Head of Buildings and Estates, you will have responsibility for five large campuses where efficient utilisation, acquisition and disposal of assets and development planning will be particularly relevant.

A graduate and probably a qualified accountant aged from your mid thirties, it is likely that you will also have a higher degree such as an MBA. You must also have a proven track record of business orientated management gained in substantial organisations and ideally embracing finance, information technology, management information systems and property development. Personally you must be outgoing, forceful and yet diplomatic and a first class communicator.

Please send full personal and career details, including a daytime telephone number and indication of present remuneration, to: Tonnance Smith, Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte Executive Resourcing Ltd, 76 Shoe Lane, London EC4A 3JB, quoting reference TS794/S on both letter and envelope, or telephone for further particulars on 071 822 8375.

Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte Executive Resourcing

WALHAMPTON SCHOOL, Lymington BURSAR

From 1st September 1991

Walhampton is a leading IAPS Day and Boarding School of 250 pupils, situated in a fine estate and its listed building. Further details available from the Secretary to the Governing Body, 56 Southampton Road, SO41 9BQ, to whom applications, including a CV and the names of two referees, should be returned.

Closing date for applications 15th April 1991.

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SOLICITOR OR BARRISTER

Plymouth

£19,395 - £23,499 (with possible progression to £24,519)

Devon employs 33,000 people, has assets of £1 billion, and an annual expenditure of £0.5 billion. It is the largest employer in the South West with responsibility for schools, roads, consumer protection, fire, care of children, the aged and the handicapped, disposal of refuse, employment generation, planning etc. The legal problems are diverse!

This post entails litigation both in court and at public enquiries but mainly child care. We seek an experienced or newly qualified/called Lawyer, or someone about to qualify, with the ability to work with Social Workers, Doctors and others on sensitive issues touching the

welfare of children. The legal department has offices in Exeter, Barnstaple and Plymouth. This post is one of three Solicitors in Plymouth.

Application form from the Chief Executive's and County Solicitor's Department, Devon County Council, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter. Tel: Exeter (0392) 382323 (24 hour answerphone).

Closing date: 17th April 1991.

Devon COUNTY COUNCIL

Devon is an Equal Opportunities Employer

£ 50,000 bonus, stock options

HEALTH CARE AREA INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC CONSULTANCY

FRENCH RIVIERA FRANCE SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS

Managing Director

We are the French leading market research agency in the pharmaceutical area, internationally acknowledged and specializing in strategic advice. Our international activities become more and more important. We require an experienced business manager or consultant of exceptional calibre to join us, take the entire responsibility of the international activities and become in a near future a fully associated member of the group advisory board.

The role

- reporting to the President, responsible for selling and executing the international market research programs.
- developing productive relationships with the marketing managers in the headquarters of the international pharmaceutical companies.
- managing a team of international market research analysts.
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The qualifications

- international marketing director in a pharmaceutical company or senior executive in an internationally acknowledged market research / advertising agency.
- likely to be aged about 35/40.
- preferably medical doctor, ideally supplemented by a MBA.
- will show leadership skills, managerial abilities to head a multi-national team.
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THE TIMES

The Times Public Appointments appears every Tuesday. To advertise please call: 071-481 1066

Ordnance Survey HEAD OF FINANCE

Ordnance Survey is the National Mapping Agency responsible for the topographic survey and mapping of Great Britain. It operates as an Agency under the Government's Next Steps Policy for delivering high quality services in a businesslike manner. First established 200 years ago, Ordnance Survey is today a world leader in computerised mapping and actively markets its products and services. Turnover in 1989/90 was £44 million.

The retirement in July of the present Head of Finance will create a vacancy at Southampton for an experienced professional accountant. The successful applicant will be expected to:

- ensure the timely production of accounts to meet legal and parliamentary requirements;
- develop accounting practices and internal financial information systems to best commercial standards;
- provide firm effective management of a wide range of financial and procurement activities;
- advise senior management on financial issues;
- act as head of profession for accounting staff.

The execution of these duties will require a professional accountant with extensive management and finance policy experience. Understanding of the funding and accounting procedures in Government and of procurement and stores practice will also be looked for. The post also involves considerable interaction with line managers and outside bodies such as HM Treasury and National Audit Office.

The appointment is permanent and the starting salary will be up to £32,950. There are good pension arrangements and possible assistance with relocation expenses.

For further details and application form (to be returned by 11 April 1991) write to:

The Personnel Manager
Ordnance Survey
Romsey Road
Maybush
SOUTHAMPTON
SO9 4DH

or telephone:
Southampton (0703) 792640

The Ordnance Survey is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is fully committed to equal opportunity policies. Applications are welcome from all suitably qualified individuals, irrespective of sex, racial origin or disability.

Senior Health Economist/Health Planner

Uganda, rightly known as the Jewel of Africa because of its beauty and its natural and human resources, has had one of the best national health systems in Africa, combining disease control programmes with a network of clinics and hospitals offering preventive and curative services.

The disruption of the 1970s and early 1980s halted progress, but with a much improved and more stable security and economic situation, the Government of Uganda is set on a programme of rehabilitation. ODA is involved in a number of projects aimed at re-establishing effective health services and has agreed to assist with the planning process in co-operation with other aid donors.

Good planning is critical and your primary objective will be to help strengthen the resource planning capacity of the Ministry of Health's Planning Unit. You will focus on the development of appropriate systems to improve the prioritisation and management of health resources at central and district level. The Ugandan Government is considering the introduction of user charges for health care and you will be involved in developing and implementing appropriate systems for improving donor co-ordination and foreign assistance. This is a challenging and senior position requiring liaison with central ministries, and involving key advice and assistance on the design and implementation of systems covering a range of health sector activities and initiatives.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should be British Citizens and have a post-graduate qualification in health economics and/or health planning. You should have had experience in a senior position for a central or local health authority as well as 3 years' relevant developing country experience. A thorough grounding in financial systems development and resource management is essential and an appreciation of the political constraints which often inhibit efficient resource planning is desirable.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

You will be on contract to the British Government for 3 years, on loan to the Government of Uganda. Salary will be £44,200 p.a. (UK taxable). Additional benefits will normally include tax-free overseas allowances, currently of £3,573 p.a. (single) and up to £6,828 p.a. (married), free accommodation and passages, annual fare-paid leave and children's education allowances, including holiday visit passages.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 12 April, 1991.

For further details and application form, please write to: Appointments Officer, Ref No AH364/CCST, Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8BA, or telephone 0355 843534.

ODA is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and applications for this post are sought from both men and women.

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Esha Ness to be rewarded for gallant festival effort

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

AS programmes comprising only steeplechases are a comparative rarity, today's Royal Artillery meeting at Sandown Park should have a broad appeal, all the more so since chasing on the Esher course constitutes one of the finest spectacles in National Hunt racing, even when fields are on the small side.

With Esha Ness, Golden Celtic and Landryman all standing their ground, the British 'Acropace' Rapier Novices' Chase is a fine example.

Much as I am loathe to desert Golden Celtic and Landryman, who have provided winning naps for this column this season, I select Esha Ness, who ran that mighty race at Cheltenham last time to finish second to Rolling Ball in the Sun Alliance Chase.

While conceding that siding with a horse who has a hard race at the recent festival is often fraught with risks, I do so now in the belief that his experienced trainer, Jenny Pitman, would not be going to the well again so soon unless she was confident about the outcome.

Esha Ness's run against Rolling Ball was better than anything achieved by her opponents today and prior to Cheltenham, Esha Ness had beaten Man On The Line in



Forster: treble chance for improving Eastshaw style when making that triumph-chasing debut at Newbury.

Today's card begins with the 'Right O' Line' Handicap Chase when Kilbrin Castle attempts his twelfth victory on the track at the ripe old age of 15.

Well as he shaped on his belated seasonal debut earlier this month when finishing third behind Amari King and Springholm, I doubt him being quite sprightly enough to cope with the Tim Forster-trained Eastshaw, who has looked in devastating form the twice that he has run and won at Leicester this season.

The Vael Alankrooks Memorial Handicap Chase looks best left to the Martin Pipe-trained and Peter Scudamore-

ridden The Leggett now that he has struck form with a vengeance, scoring in resolute fashion on successive occasions at Cheltenham and Wolverhampton.

The same successful combination of trainer and jockey will obviously be entertaining high hopes of also winning the Royal Ordnance Handicap Chase with Star's Delight, even under top weight.

However, as Star's Delight was beaten at Cheltenham recently when attempting to give a lot of weight to that useful novice in Aldino, I also believe he will be thwarted this time by another, Acre Hill, who is my nap following that good run over today's course and distance 17 days ago when he was attempting to give Sir to Nestle.

In the meantime, his conqueror has gone on to win a handicap under top weight at Devon and Exeter. Furthermore, the form of Acre Hill's last race received another boost at Ludlow last Friday when the fourth horse, Wide Boy, also won.

As McArthur, who finished third in the Sandown race, had won his two previous races, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that the form of that race is now built on the best foundations.

Prince Nepal, a winner at the Grand Military meeting, can trigger a double for his

trainer Gerald Oley by winning the Royal Artillery Gold Cup, a double to be completed by The Argonaut capturing the RMC Group Unique Hunters' Chase at the end of the day.

The Argonaut has already carried the royal colours to victory four times at Sandown and both today's going and distance will suit him demonstrably better than when he finished only fourth in the Grand Military Gold Cup over further and on softer ground last time.

Finally, Sumonda (4.5) looks the banker on the Flat at Leicester to avenge the defeat of her owner and trainer's even money favourite Casanueva in the same race 12 months ago.

A commendable fourth in the Cheveley Park Stakes at Newmarket last September before winning on today's track the following month, Sumonda appears to have found in hand of those rivals who have run.

Leicester on

THE meeting at Leicester today goes ahead after passing a course inspection. The clerk of the course Nick Lees said yesterday: "We've had a fine day with a good drying wind. The going is still heavy and if it rained heavily overnight we would be in trouble, but the forecast is good."

Blinkered first time

Moore to miss his top ride

GARY Moore is resigned to missing his chance of riding one of the top juvenile hurdlers, Reve De Vais, at Aintree next week.

Moore was set to partner Denys Smith's colt in the Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle but, after having a plate inserted in a broken arm following a fall at Fontwell, he says he is 99 per cent certain to be ruled out.

"The owner, Ken Higson, wants me to try and get fit, but there's not much chance," Moore said. "The arm is in a sling and all I can do is rest it. Even if I wanted to have a go, I doubt I would pass the doctor."

He considers Reve De Vais, winner of his last five races, as the best horse he has ridden. "I honestly think he will win next time. All you have to do is ask him to quicken and he goes. It will take a very good horse to beat him."

O'Gorman back home

Emma O'Gorman, who was released from hospital in Nottingham, was back home in Newmarket yesterday after being released from hospital in Nottingham.

Emma's father, the trainer Bill O'Gorman, said: "She's still sleeping a lot and is gradually feeling better." He added that his daughter had been buoyed up after watching her rival Alex Greaves land the Lincoln Handicap on Aintree.

Miss O'Gorman was badly concussed but suffered no broken bones when Honey Mill clipped the heads of another horse and gave her a crashing fall. Honey Mill escaped unscathed and is due to reappear at Catterick Bridge tomorrow.

Pitman may switch to Golden Freeze as National choice

MARK Pitman, the Cheltenham Gold Cup winning jockey who is confident of being fit in time for next week's Liverpool meeting, will ride Golden Freeze in the Grand National should the ante-post favourite Garrison Savannah be withdrawn.

Pitman is having intensive treatment on his pelvis, broken in a fall from Run To Form in the County Hurdle at the Cheltenham festival.

He expects to ride out this weekend and foresees no problems about appearing at Liverpool's three-day fixture, which starts a week on Thursday.

Garrison Savannah, his first-choice National ride, is far from certain to make the line-up. His trainer Jenny Pitman is considering running a eight-year-old against the champion hurdler, easy winner of the Liverpool event last year.

The Mumm Club Novices' Hurdle later in the day is the likely alternative. The Kingsclere trainer, favouring that to Friday's Glenlivet Anniversary Hurdle, which is over the shorter trip of two miles.

The jockey has been satisfied with the horse's progress and, if returned to the form that saw him go down narrowly when carrying a big weight in last season's Mackeson Gold Cup, Golden Freeze could be worth supporting at current odds of 35-1.

"It's been a question of knocking off the ring rust," said the jockey. "He was out for 18 months and has taken time to get used to racing again."

He knocked a splint at the

third fence at Worcester and was never going well afterwards. He jumped a lot better at Cheltenham and was running on well at the end. He will come on a lot for the race."

The recent dry weather has been good news for connections of Ballyhane. Returning to form when third in the Racing Post Chase at Kempton, Ballyhane prefers first ground and, after starting yesterday at 33-1, he was cut to 20-1 by Coral and 25-1 by William Hill.

Garrison Savannah remains 7-1 with a run and the second favourite Rimus was trimmed from 9-1 to 8-1 by Coral. Ian Balding is likely to steer Crystal Spirit away from his brother Toby's Morley Street at Liverpool.

Both horses are entered in the two-and-a-half mile Sandeman Aintree Hurdle on Grand National day. But Ian Balding is unwilling to match his Sun Alliance Novice Hurdle victory against the champion hurdler, easy winner of the Liverpool event last year.

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He knocked a splint at the

ICE HOCKEY Crapper's return reinforces attack

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

GREAT Britain have made a reasonable start in pool C on their return to the world championships after an absence of ten years.

The 6-5 defeat at the hands of China on Saturday was frustrating, better shooting in the second period, when the Chinese goalkeepers made 26 saves, would surely have brought victory. The early stages of the game were important and, as the Great Britain coach, Alex Dampier, confirmed, the team made a hesitant start.

He said: "We were too cautious early on, but nobody knew what to expect. The shooting was too casual and we were a forward short, which caused some juggling of the lines. But the 7-2 win over North Korea was very encouraging and we proved to ourselves that we can score goals."

The self-control shown by the British players was also encouraging, as both the Chinese and Koreans carried their sticks very high. "We had to earn the respect of the Koreans," Dampier said, "but they were in fact the cleanest Korean team I have ever seen."

Great Britain play Denmark, the host nation, this evening. The Danes are big and strong, but it was impossible to assess their potential against a Belgium side that has conceded 26 goals in its first two games and scored only one.

Dampier thinks he knows how to deal with Denmark. "I do not think they can play very well laterally and if we stand up on our blue line and force them to dump the puck, we could put them off their game. Jamie Crapper's arrival will also help, giving us more forward options," he said.

Crapper had to remain at Bracknell, where he manages the ice rink, for a weekend skating competition, but joined the squad for yesterday's practice.

HOCKEY London's coach retained

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

LONDON have once again called on the Houslow, England and Great Britain centre forward, Robert Thompson, as coach in the defence of the men's title in the British Universities Sports Federation championship which starts today, at the Wycombe playing fields, Liverpool.

The senior UAU team, which lost last year's final to London, is well stocked with leading players from Durham and Exeter but not the trio from Bristol, recent winners of the Commercial Union UAU championship, who are unavailable.

Cambridge will have a chance to avenge the 3-1 defeat in the University match when they meet Oxford in tomorrow's pool B match.

As winners of their respective regional league, Cheltenham, Bedford, Chelmsford, Farnham, Bournemouth and Surbiton have all qualified for the second division of the national league next season. Surbiton made sure of winning the Pizza Express London League by drawing 1-1 on Saturday with Hampstead and Westminster.

CYCLING Rivals fall to Lillywhite in last sprint

CHRIS Lillywhite took the role of Banana-Falcon's "pathfinder" in the absence of the team captain, Shane Sutton, at the weekend's start to the professional road-racing season on the one-mile circuit at London's Eastway (Peter Bryan writes).

Sutton, winner of last year's March Hare event, was absent with a broken right wrist after a training split. But Lillywhite was a good replacement, winning in a sprint finish the fast 50-mile race that commemorated the centenary of Cycling magazine.

His victory on the team's return from its training camp in Majorca, may be just the start of a year's domination by the only fully dedicated road-racing squad in Britain. It will leave shortly for events in France and Italy in preparation for the defence of its 1990 Milk Race title.

Wales's two golden girls, the Commonwealth Games sprint champion, Louise Jones, and the world's best points rider, Sally Hodge, showed good form at Eastway. Returning to competition after a year's absence, Hodge finished only inches behind Jones, the winner.

Sandstone Arch qualifies in style

By BRIAN BEEL

EASTERN Chant, last season's winner of The Times Championship final, qualified from the North West and this area has produced two worthy challengers for this year's Towsester final in Sandstone Arch and Sandstone, winners on Saturday of the two qualifiers at the Tansite point-to-point.

Sandstone Arch, the 7-4 favourite, had won three times at Eton in 1990 and again, with Charles Barlow in the saddle, showed his liking for the course by going on five fences from home to win seven lengths from Charles Barlow at this meeting.

The previous Monday he had found the going too soft in a novice hunter chase at Wolverhampton, but will now return to the stiffer fences as the ground dries up.

Terry Lowndes's Sandstone, who has proceeded as just September's Doncaster steeple, is to be entered for the maiden hunter chase at Carlisle on Easter Monday after an impressive performance in the second division. His previous Flint and Donish has proceeded him to market choice and he justified this support under Paddy Murphy, moving smoothly through the field to take up the running two out to beat Lisa by four lengths, with Tytherton in third place.

Dick Bainbridge saddled three winners at the Ross Harriers, Alison Dare was on two of these and Julian Pritchard, after winning the open on Scally's Daughter, rode the other. Sandstone, to complete his double. After this race the stewards fined John Grassick £50 for pulling up Angus Prince after riding a finish and believing he had won with one circuit still to go.

Philip Schofield took his season's total to 14 and extended his lead for the men's title with a treble at the Lanchester. Mandy Turner broke her collarbone at this meeting from a fall on Cornish Air after she had won the open partnering For A Lark.

Gunner's Flight, who was seemingly invincible in the West Country, more than met his match in Rodden Brook (Patrick MacDonagh) in the open at the Westons and Bauld but his rider Robert Alner had quick recompense, landing the odds on Oak Vale in the restricted.

The Red One, probably this year's most impressive recruit to point-to-pointing, continued in the winning vein under Wayne Burrell in the Cotswolds open. His winning time was faster than that of Padraig's in the ladies open, who was carrying 21lb less weight.

Yesterday's results

Folkestone Hexham

1.15 (1m 20) 1. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 2. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 3. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 4. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 5. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 6. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 7. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 8. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 9. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 10. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 11. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 12. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 13. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 14. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 15. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 16. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 17. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 18. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 19. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 20. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 21. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 22. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 23. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 24. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 25. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 26. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 27. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 28. BAIN THE MAN (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 29. CORNWALL (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 30. MOTT (W. O'Brien, 11-10) 31. 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TENNIS

Courier's choice begins to pay off

Woosnam limited his opportunities of winning on American soil

"It would be nice to be the top earner in the record books," Woosnam said. "But I don't want to be like Tom Kite: a big money-winner without a major championship to my name." Kite, with \$7 million, has won more than any other golfer.

Woosnam, naturally enough,

In the play-off, the players halved the 16th in a par-four and Woosnam won when Hallet bunkered his tee-shot at the short 17th and just failed to explode his ball into the cup. The ball ran over the

LEADING FINAL SCORES (US unless stated): 275: J. Woodman (GB), 73, 67, 68, 67; J. Huston, 69, 71, 65, 70 (Woodman won play-off at second extra hole); 277: T. Sackman, 71, 68, 70, 68; 278: J. Huston, 72, 70, 68, 66; 278: T. Simpson, 71, 72, 71, 65; R. Black, 68, 74, 68, 71; J. Edwards, 73, 71, 64, 71; 280: C. Byron, 72, 72, 68, 68; K. Knowlton, 68, 75, 66, 71; 281: M. Smith, 73, 70, 71, 67; P. Blackmer, 67, 77, 68, 71; W. Mayr, 67, 73, 68, 73; 282: B. Lohr, 68, 74, 70, 70; J. Nidhaus, 68, 69, 74, 71; Other British score: 280: A. Lyne, 72, 73, 74, 71.

1984	S Ballesteros	Westchester Classic
1984	N Faldo	Heritage Classic
1985	B Langer	The Masters
1985	B Langer	Heritage Classic
1985	S Ballesteros	USF & G Classic
1986	A Lyle	Greater Greensboro Open
1987	A Lyle	Players Championship
1987	K Brown	Southern Open
1988	A Lyle	Phoenix Open
1988	A Lyle	Greater Greensboro Open
1988	A Lyle	The Masters
1988	S Ballesteros	Westchester Classic
1989	N Faldo	The Masters
1990	N Faldo	The Masters
1990	J-M Olazábal	World Series of Golf
1991	I Woosnam	USF & G Classic

1986, but this was the first time he had reached the selection trials. Once he had been picked for the national trial, he built an assault course in his garden, an investment which paid off here. His agility and strength caught the eye of most observers as well as of the selectors.

The Britons were no less impressive when a real emergency superseded an off-road driving test in remote woodlands on Friday. Brian Pearson, one of the Land Rover instructors, fractured an ankle but the British team, having completed a first aid course earlier in the day, treated him until an ambulance arrived.

"We can't forget the financial consequences," Colin Smith, the Worthing director, said. "I

DESPITE Ayrtton Senna's remarkable victory in the Brazilian grand prix of Sunday, the McLaren-Honda team failed to command centre stage. Rather it was the comparison in the displays of the Williams-Renault and Ferrari teams that was the focus of critical attention. Senna's triumph was to be followed by a new car from the start of the season was a brave one. Nigel Mansell confessed that he was worried about the late completion of the car and the small amount of testing that had been done with it. Mansell may have been right to be worried but he has failed to finish in both races so far. His teammate, Riccardo Patrese, however, has benefited from the new atmosphere in the team, and has won the New Zealand grand prix to second place in the

JOHN Onraway used his piston-like delivery to win the All-England champion of champions singles title for the second time at Wellingborough yesterday, beating Ian Peacock 21-17.

Peacock, who chipped his contact lens overnight, spent his lunch hour dashing to Northampton to acquire a replacement after beating David Holt 21-14 in the semi-finals.

Eso matched Onraway until the final break.

RESULTS: EUSA Champion of Champions
Singles: Graeme Souness P Hobday (Victory)
in A Kings (Bowman Masters), 21-16
Hobday (Wells) 21-18; J Onraway (Adlethorpe), 21-5; J Crtaway (Wymerham) beat G Ramsay (Barnet), 21-10; Peacock (Epsom) beat G Hatherall (Westcott), 21-18; Souness Ounraway beat Hobday, 21-5; Peacock beat Holt, 21-4. Final: Onraway beat Peacock 21-17.

FIRST DIVISION		GIM WALDHAAL CONFERENCE
1 Villa v Arsenal	X Brentford v Birmingham	1 Celtic v Motherwell
2 Derby v Arsenal	2 Chester v Rotherham	1 Dundee Utd v St Johnstone
1 Liverpool v QPR	3 Wolves v Wigan	2 Dumburry v Rangers
2 Liverpool v Southampton	1 Grimsby v Reading	2 Hibernian v Aberdeen
2 Norwich v QPR	1 Huddersfield v Shrewsbury	2 St Mirren v Hearts
1 Sheffield Utd v Luton	1 Leyton Orient v Bury	
2 Sunderland v QPR	2 Manchester United v Nott'm	SCOTTISH PREMIER
1 Tottenham v QPR	1 Middlesbrough v Preston	1 Dundee Utd v St Johnstone
1 Wimbledon v Nott'm	2 Swansea v Stoke	2 Hibernian v Aberdeen
		2 St Mirren v Hearts
Not on couples: Chelsea v Leeds	Not on couples:	
	Tottenham v Cardiff	
	Wolves v Wigan (Friday)	
SECOND DIVISION		SCOTTISH FIRST
1 Barnsley v Portsmouth		1 Arbroath v Falkirk
2 Bristol Rovers v Middlesbrough		2 Arbroath v Clyde
2 Charlton v Crystal Palace		1 Dundee v Dundee
2 Leicester v Luton		2 Forfar v Meadowbank
1 Millersden v Plymouth		1 Greenock v Hamilton
2 Millersden v Plymouth		1 Hamilton v Raith
1 Oxford v Hull		1 Partick v Ayr
1 Portsmouth v Bristol R		
1 Port Vale v Watford		SCOTTISH SECOND
1 Swindon v Newcastle		1 Arbroath v Arbroath
2 Wolves v Sheffield Wed		1 Barnsley v Barnsley
		5 East Stirling; Dumbarton
Not on couples: Oldham v West Ham (Friday)		1 Greenock v Greenock
		1 Stranraer; Queen of the South v Cowdenbeach
THIRD DIVISION		1 Stranraer; Queen of the South v Albion
1 Bolton v Colchester		1 Stranraer v Albion
1 Bradford City v Fulham		
	Not on couples: Blackpool v Hartlepool (Friday)	

I have an automatic job myself, though I must admit it is occasionally a bit sluggish leaving traffic lights, so I

have great sympathy with Nigel. We car people understand one another's problems. As the prime minister would say: "Oh! Yes!"

Of course, another, probably more fun, way of following grand prix motor racing is to go advert-spotting. The viewers of the televised highlights get the best of all possible worlds if they play this game. The drivers, going a mere 150 or so, probably see a continuous blur; the cheering crowds only see the bits they are near; we get the lot.

Thus, if you have a mind to it, you can keep up with or even beat wonderful Murray

gap between drivers. You see, if you spot that Ayrton has flashed past the *Asip* sign and got up to the *Cheroleo* advert before Nigel has flashed past the *Elf* notice, then you can work it out in a flash that Nigel is 4.3sec behind. It's a doddle.

It is clear to me from looking at the cars that representatives of most of the world's major companies must come down to the pits first thing in the morning and put their company stickers all over each vehicle. In no sport I know is there so much advertising, and I suppose the possible rewards make it all worthwhile. As they flashed past on Sunday, I counted 11 different adverts on cars and the same number of billboards around the track. I bet there were a dozen more I did not catch.

Although more sedate advert-spotting was on

when the mild Chris Rea introduced a programme called *Rugby Special*, which is, of course, *Rugby Union Special*, since it covers only that sport. It was excellent this weekend, with a club game from England and one from Wales (sponsors, complete with name logos on BBC screens, Heineken and Courage), which showed British club rugby at its best.

For rugby followers who do not discriminate between the codes, Saturday afternoon's game live on BBC1 was a cracker: true, the record books will show that *Wigan* led by 20-0 at half-time against *Oldham* and eventually won 30-16. Except *Oldham* were overrun; for those of us just happy to let a good rugby league game wash over us there were some great running movements and excellent play.

television and the coverage of the world cross country championships from Antwerp at least gave us the consolation of a wee Liz McGolgan getting a bronze medal. I know little of the coaching manual's recommendations of where the arms and hands should be in long-distance running, though I seem to remember Gordon Pirie's swinging by his sides. Liz McGolgan's arms, on the other hand, and in contrast to most of the African women runners, seem to go out at an angle from her body as if she were elbowing someone out of the way. Maybe it makes no difference, but it just shows you that with good television coverage of a sporting event there is often more to talk about and watch than just the event itself.

Channel 4 covered the opening of the Flat race

Annemarie's win in the Lincoln when ridden by Alex Graves the highlight. She says she is fed up with being dubbed "Queen of the Turf" just because she is a girl and wants to be regarded just as another jockey. On Saturday's performance she is at least as good and probably better than a heck of a lot of her male opponents. She kept her horse steady and balanced, picked off tiring horses and used her whip to good — and fair — effect to win, almost going away.

For me the highlight of the weekend was when John McCrinnick, who had found a pretty young girl who had backed a winner, threw his arms around her and with a knowing chauvinist wink said to camera: "I'm off with Melanie." His colleague, Jim McGrath, chimed in with: "Surely Melanie can do better than that." I loved it.

